

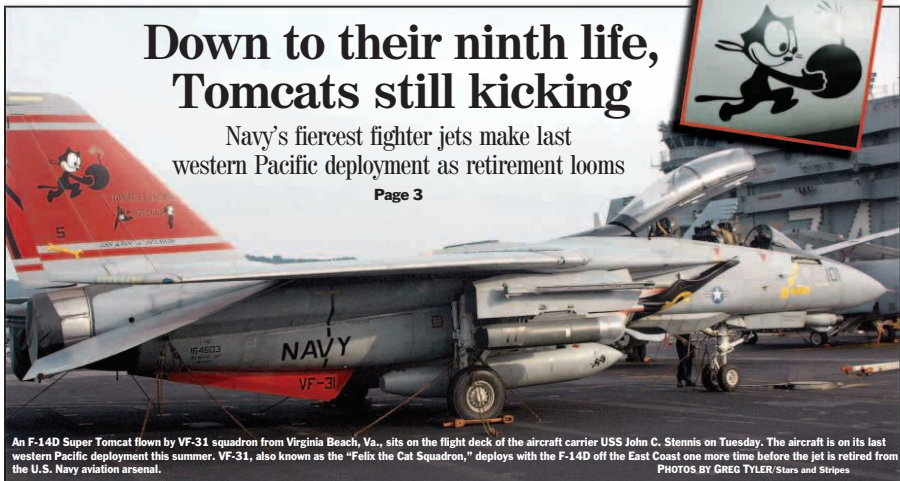
U.S. Greco-Roman
wrestler Rulon Gardner



50¢

Page 11

Page 3



An F-14D Super Tomcat flown by VF-31 squadron from Virginia Beach, Va., sits on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis on Tuesday. The aircraft is on its last western Pacific deployment this summer. VF-31, also known as the "Felix the Cat Squadron," deploys with the F-14D off the East Coast one more time before the jet is retired from the U.S. Navy aviation arsenal.

PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/*Stars and Stripes*

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TODAY IN STRIPES

Abby, Annie's Mailbox.....	20
American Roundup	16-17
Classified	21-22
Comics	18-20
Crossword	19
Faces 'n' Places	18
Horoscope	14
Letters	15
Opinion	24-32
Sports	13
TV listings	23
Weather	23
Your Money	12

News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Phil Spector murder charges: Music producer Phil Spector has hired an attorney who used to work for mob boss John Gotti to defend him on murder charges after his previous attorney resigned from the case.

Leslie Abramson said Tuesday that she and her co-counsel resigned as Spector's attorneys but were taken by surprise when Bruce Cutler filed a motion to take over the case while Abramson was out of the country.

Federal prosecutors in New York have portrayed Cutler as "house counsel" for the Gambino crime family. Gotti died in prison in 2002.

Spector, 64, famed for creating rock 'n' roll's "wall of sound" recording technique in the 1960s, is charged in the fatal shooting of Lana Clarkson at his mansion in February 2003.

Georgia crematory lawsuit: A jury of five men and three women was selected Tuesday in Rome, Ga., to decide a civil lawsuit against the former operator of a northwest Georgia crematory where hundreds of corpses were left unburied.

The jury includes one black woman, the only black member of the original 60-person jury pool. But the defense attorney for Brent Marsh, who is black, said his client would get a fair trial.

Nearly 1,700 relatives of people who were supposed to be cremated by Marsh are suing him and the estate of his late father, Ray Marsh.

The trial will determine only liability. If the jury rules against the Marshes, a second trial will be held to decide how much they should pay in damages.

Roy Horn tiger-mauling video: The company that produced the Siegfried & Roy magic show has refused to give federal investigators a video of the tiger attack that badly injured illusionist Roy Horn.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture attempted to obtain the video through two subpoenas, but Vienna, Va.-based Field Entertainment would not hand over the footage, a USDA source familiar with the case said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Under the Animal Welfare Act, the USDA has been investigating the October attack in which Horn was mauled by a 300-pound white tiger during a live performance at The Mirage hotel-casino in Las Vegas.

Horn survived but later suffered a stroke



Typhoon in Taiwan: Flood waters from Typhoon Aere fill the streets of San Chong Aere Wednesday in Taipei county, Taiwan. Typhoon Aere whipped northern Taiwan with gusty winds and heavy rain, knocking down trees in the capital, Taipei, and swamping homes in towns prone to deadly flash flooding and mudslides. Schools and financial markets were closed for a second straight day as the slow-moving storm whirled just 31 miles north of Taiwan's northern tip packing winds of 86 mph and gusts to 108 mph.

that has left him partially paralyzed. The long-running show closed.

War on terrorism

Filipino workers in Iraq: The Philippines will keep a ban on its workers going to Iraq following an attack that wounded a Filipino engineer, the government said Tuesday from Manila.

Daniilo Pasia sustained gunshot wounds and three of his companions, an Indonesian and two Iraqis, were killed when their vehicle came under attack near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday, the Philippine foreign affairs department said.

About 4,000 Filipinos currently work in U.S. military camps throughout Iraq.

World

Terror in Uzbekistan: Islamic militants wanted by Uzbek police for their alleged involvement in recent violence could strike again despite tightened security, a senior police official said Wednesday.

The comments came after the U.S. State Department said Tuesday it had information that terrorists may be planning attacks in Uzbekistan in early September during the country's Independence Day celebrations.

Japan plant accident: A worker injured in Japan's deadliest nuclear-plant accident earlier this month has died, raising the death toll to five, an official said Wednesday.

Masaru Kameiwa, 30, had been severely burned in the Aug. 9 accident, which occurred when a corroded cooling pipe — carrying boiling water and superheated steam — burst at a plant in Mihama, about 200 miles west of Tokyo.

Kameiwa died on Wednesday at a hospital in Fukui, northern Japan, said Fukui prefectural government spokesman Katsunori Kondo.

Four workers at the plant were killed nearly instantly, and seven others were injured. No radiation was released.

Asian bird flu: More money and global attention should be focused on bird flu in Asia to study the virus, which experts fear could mutate and trigger a human pandemic, the World Health Organization said Wednesday.

Vietnam suffered the highest human death toll — 16 people — when the disease broke out in Asia earlier this year. Three more died in Hanoi, Vietnam, last month when the dangerous H5N1 strain struck again, bringing the total to 19.

Cleric charges: Indonesian prosecutors announced on Wednesday they would soon charge militant cleric Abu Bakkar Bashir with terror crimes, as he denounced his detention as "oppression from America."

Bashir made the comment to reporters as armed guards took him from police headquarters to a prison cell where he will be held under prosecutors' jurisdiction until his trial begins.

Police have accused Bashir, 66, of heading the regional terror group Jamaah Islamiyah and plotting a role in the Aug. 5, 2003, bombing of the I.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, which killed 12 people.

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'True workhorse of naval aviation' to retire

F-14s heading to aircraft graveyard

BY GREG TYLER
Stars and Stripes

ONBOARD USS JOHN C. STENNIS, Sasebo, Japan — The U.S. Navy's meanest, fastest and most agile fighter jet, nearing retirement, is deployed in the western Pacific Ocean for the last time.

The Grumman F-14, which entered military service in 1972, also is a movie star. At least for aviation aficionados, it upstaged actors including Tom Cruise in the film "Top Gun."

Pilots flying the F-14s are from Fighter Squadron Three One, or VF-31, from Virginia Beach, Va. The VF-31 Tomcats, also known as the "Felix the Cat" squadron, now are embarked on the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis.

The ship and squadron already have taken part in Summer Pulse '04 and Rim of the Pacific '04. They left Sasebo Wednesday for PASEX, an upcoming communications exercise with other nations in the region, said Stennis spokesman Lt. Corey Barker.

After this summer, the Tomcats are to deploy once more from the U.S. East Coast, then head to the great aircraft retirement home in the desert, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson, Ariz.

"It's still the best fighter jet in the world," said Lt. Andrew McLean, a VF-31 Tomcat with three years' experience at the F-14 controls. "It was built during the Cold War when the Soviet Union was our major military threat. It's one of the last aircraft built intended to have overwhelming force, and they built these jets without cutting edges ... the best engines were put in them, the best radar, the best missiles ... it was designed for fleet defense, and did its job well," the pilot said.

The squadron's sport logos depicting Felix the Cat holding a bomb with a lit fuse. The unit has flown F-14s for 24 years, including the current version, the F-14D Super Tomcat.

Cndr. Aaron Cuduhofsky, squadron commanding officer, said the Tomcat rightfully has become an American legend — and not just because of the film.

"I like to compare the F-14 to a Harley-Davidson," Cuduhofsky said. "There are a lot of airplanes out there. But none have the beauty and grace of the Tomcat. Every time I am in the aircraft, I am in awe. It looks fast just sitting there."

The Tomcats' command master chief, Master Chief Petty Officer Tom Gall, called being part of a Tomcat squadron an honor. Even after 25 years in the Navy, he said, the plane's aesthetics still leave him awestruck.

"The Tomcat just looks sharp," Gall said. "It's mesmerizing to watch it fly. Especially as it sweeps its wings back and goes in for the kill. I'm quite certain that many people will miss it when it is gone."

Throughout its long career, the F-14 has performed other many different missions, Gall said, making it "a true workhorse of naval aviation ... air supremacy, or 'dog fighting,' to reconnaissance and putting bombs on target."

The Navy has moved to the F/A-18 Super Hornet, more a multipurpose jet praised for its versatility, rather than the F-14's pure speed and maneuverability in a dogfight.

"Today, we're all seeking to do more with less, so with the new jets, there are some compromises," said McLean, whose pilot call sign is "Lick." "They are still great, but the F-14s were built as fighters and they were the best fighters."

The pilot said eventually VF-31 would transform into a squadron of F/A-18s, airplanes he had the opportunity to fly.

The F-14, he said, "is more like what you think of as a muscle car ... they have this sort of aura about them ... the F-14s are like that."

"With the Super Hornets, you kind of get



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

An F-14D Super Tomcat, flown by VF-31 squadron from Virginia Beach, Va., sits Tuesday on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis. The airplane is on its last western Pacific deployment this summer. VF-31 deploys with the F-14D off the East Coast once more after this deployment before the jet is retired.

that 'new car smell,' like with a new Mercedes. It's got power, but not overwhelming power, and has a lot of the luxury items and amenities," he added.

"And the F-14s, being older, tend to take more maintenance. You'll have Super Hornet guys working 9-to-5 shifts, when our guys are regularly working 12-hour shifts and longer just to keep the Tomcats working at top level," he said. "But when both planes are up and running at the top of their game, there's a lot of things the Super Hornet just can't replace that the Tomcat can do."

McLean said many lessons learned flying the F-14s "I'll be able to take with me when I begin flying the Super Hornet."

Having worked almost exclusively on the F-14s for 16 years, Chief Petty Officer Scott Hadley, an aviation structural me-

chanic, said he believes retiring the storied jets, even if they're showing their age, is "the worst thing they could do in naval aviation. Absolutely."

From the Tomcats' Ready Room aboard the Stennis, he said, "There's nothing out there that can match it right now as far as capability ... plus, it's truly a gorgeous aircraft."

But Hadley also admitted the jets are aging. "They're getting crippled, and it's hard to get parts."

Still, the F-14D Super Tomcats that the squadron's pilots fly go faster than Mach 2. They're still the fastest fighter jet on the carrier.

"A Super Hornet can't even get close to us," Hadley said. "Not only is it effective, it's just gorgeous; it's artwork. So we carry that pride."

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tylerg@pstripses.osd.mil

2 Camp Zama Girl Scouts earn top Gold Award honor

BY JULIANA GITTER
Stars and Stripes

After two years of hard work and impressive community projects, five Pacific-based girls have earned the Girl Scout's highest honor, the Gold Award.

According to Girl Scouts USA, the award is based on a project "that fulfills a need within a girl's community, creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing."

The local girls completed a community service project that required more than 50 hours to design and implement.

They started with career exploration projects, leadership activities, challenge activities and community service, according to USA Girl Scouts Overseas-West Pacific, the girls' chapter. The chapter, based at Camp Zama, Japan, serves more than 2,000 girls at 14 Pacific military installations.

Award recipients are eligible for scholarships from many colleges and universities including military academies, according to the chapter.

Call DSN 263-3597, for more information.

The award recipients are:
■ Sarah Strathern and Rebecca Williams, Camp Zama, Japan.

Streeton and Williams, 2004 graduates of Zama American High School, completed a series of "Learn Week" activities in May. Their final project included a poster contest for elementary school students; a voter registration and absentee ballot drive; and a mock trial held at Zama American High School.

■ Rebecca Wellons, Yongsan Garrison, Seoul.

Wellons worked on a renovation project at Seoul American High School's auditorium. She analyzed the needs of the theater department and conducted a community drive to buy new costumes and props. She also arranged repairs to the facility and led a community clean up of the dressing rooms and backstage areas.

■ Elizabeth Hille and Alexthea Carter, Osan Air Base, South Korea.

Hille and Carter undertook a project to inventory the Osan Chapel Library and track checked-out books and videos. They designed a computer inventory and cross-reference system, attached book pockets and cards to each book and video and created a card catalog. As a result, library materials are more readily available to the entire community at Osan Air Base.

E-mail Juliana Gitter at: gitterj@pstripses.osd.mil

Sailor's assailant loses appeal

The Hiroshima High Court on Tuesday rejected an appeal by a Hiroshima man who shot a 21-year-old sailor assigned to Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station.

Presiding Judge Toshikazu Obuchi dismissed an appeal by Tomoyuki Matsumoto, 37, whom the Hiroshima District Court in April sentenced to 10 years in prison, a high court spokesman said.

Matsumoto, who police said is a former organized crime syndicate member, shot Petty Officer 3rd Class Eric S. Heinze, 21, in October because Heinze and his friends walked in front of Matsumoto's car. Matsumoto turned himself in shortly after the incident and confessed to shooting Heinze.

Heinze fully recovered after surgery in a Hiroshima hospital and has returned to the United States.

Matsumoto has two weeks to appeal to the high court, the spokesman said.

Helmet falls from C-130

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — During a C-130 aerial demonstration last weekend at the Japanese-American Friendship Festival, a U.S. Army paratrooper lost an aircrew-style helmet as he moved into position near the plane's door to confirm the aircraft's location prior to the jump, 374th Airlift Wing officials said.

The incident occurred at about 1:30 p.m. Saturday, according to Capt. David Westover, a 374th Airlift Wing spokesman. The military notified local government officials immediately, and the helmet was returned Monday by an Ome resident.

It was found at an industrial area in Mizuho Town that manufactures concrete foundations, Westover said. There were no reports of damage or injuries.

"We are grateful to our Japanese neighbors for their continued support of Yokota Air Base. While this was an individual mistake that happened during our annual Friendship Festival, this proved to be another great example of the strong relationship that exists between Yokota Air Base and our surrounding communities," Col. Mark Schissler, the 374th Airlift Wing commander, stated in a news release. "Safety is of the utmost importance when it comes to our flying operations. We ensured that all aircrew members were specifically briefed about this prior to Sunday's aerial demonstrations."

"The fact that the helmet was returned the next day goes to show how well our neighboring communities support Yokota Air Base. We are sorry that this happened and we will do our best to ensure that it doesn't happen again."

Book drive

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The base's Route 56 club is conducting a book drive through Tuesday for deployed servicemembers, officials said.

Yokota residents can donate books at the post office, Yokota Community Center, Yujo Community Center and library.

Send an e-mail to gerald.more@yokota.af.mil for more information.

From staff reports

Navy, Coast Guard on Guam resume search for surfer

By VANCE LITTLE

Stars and Stripes

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard rescue personnel on Guam resumed their search for a missing surfer Wednesday evening after finding plucking three others from waters stirred up by Typhoon Chaba, which skirted the island over the weekend.

The crews, assisted by the Guam Fire Department, conducted a four-hour search early Wednesday for the missing man, combing a section of the coastline extending five miles out from Haputo Bay south to Agat, said Navy Lt. Arven Consaul, a Commander, Naval Forces Marianas spokesman.

The Coast Guard said the body may have been submerged under the water," she added. "So they planned to try again later to see if it surfaces."

Three local men and another civilian from Texas were watching the waves Tuesday afternoon off Tamuning when one of them was swept out into the ocean, Consaul said. The others jumped in and attempted to save the man.

At about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, with waves up to 20 feet pounding the cliff line, two surfers were rescued by the Coast Guard, while a third was picked up by an MH-60 Knighthawk crew from Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5, a Navy unit assigned to Andersen Air Force Base.

The pilots said the surfers "were having a rough time in the seas," Consaul said. "They were getting banged up a lot. They couldn't put one of them in a harness because his back was all scraped up."

Petty Officer 1st Class Von Borstel, a corpsman, tended to that third victim, who had to be hoisted into the helicopter by a net.

"He had abrasions all over his body, back, head and knees. Everywhere," Borstel said.

A second helicopter crew spent another two hours Tuesday looking for the fourth individual.

Two victims were treated and released from Guam Memorial Hospital, Consaul said. Another remained there in serious condition Wednesday night.

Surf advisories had been issued, she said, warning people to stay out of the water as the storm brushed the island, but some still chose to venture out.

"It was really bad out there," Consaul added. "It's low tide all the time, and now, we get these giant-type waves coming in. People want to go out there and surf and jet ski and kite surf, because these weather conditions are not normal."

Water outages continue until further notice

Stars and Stripes

Water outages in areas served by the Navy Water Treatment Plant on Guam will continue until further notice, as will "boil water" orders, as the plant labors to refill reserve tanks, Naval Forces Marianas officials said Wednesday. Recent storms have churned mud and sediment at Fena Reservoir, officials said, turning its water coffee-colored and making the plant's filters unable to keep up - and another storm is "on the horizon."

The Navy has been able to restore some water to Guam Waterworks Authority, Naval Forces Marianas stated in a news release. GWA customers who rely on water from Fena Reservoir, and military housing areas on or near Naval Base Guam, will receive water on a conservation timetable, the release stated.

The Navy will provide water as follows, the release stated:

■ To Naval Base Guam, Nimitz Hill, and Old and New Apra Housing: shut off at 8 p.m., turned back on at 6 a.m. the following day.

■ To Agat and Santa Rita: shut off at 9 p.m., turned back on at 6 a.m. the following day.

■ Navy personnel living on Naval Base Guam, Nimitz Hill, Old and New Apra military housing and Naval Magazine, and GWA customers, are urged to boil tap water. If it's transparent, boil vigorously for two to three minutes; if brown or cloudy, add half a teaspoon of unscented bleach to every five gallons; let sit 30 minutes.

"There's such a strong rip current, and there's hardly ever one here. People don't realize how quickly it will pull you out. When these storms come in, the water is very deep, the waves get very tall and a strong rip current comes through. It takes some people by surprise."

The surfer rescues followed a Monday morning rescue when a Helicopter Combat Support Squadron 5 crew battled 30-foot seas and a mile of visibility to rescue six people stranded in a 40-foot tugboat partially submerged off Saipan's coast, Consaul said.

E-mail Vance Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil

Sailors' early departure is a blow to businesses

BY ANGELA ROBERTS
Special to Stars and Stripes

GUAM — Typhoon Chaba did more than just minor damage to Guam as it hit the island Sunday: It also left many service industries disappointed over the USS Kitty Hawk's early departure.

The carrier pulled into Guam's Apra Harbor on Aug. 19 for a scheduled port visit but the approaching typhoon prompted its departure Saturday. Kitty Hawk was supposed to stay until at least Monday or Tuesday to give its 5,000 sailors time to rest, explore Guam and divest themselves of some of the hard-earned pay that can't be spent at sea.

"Normally on a four-day stay there would be \$2.5 [million] to \$3 million spent on the local economy plus the supplies taken on by the ship," said Jim Adkins, Armed Forces Committee chairperson for the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

"Sailors enjoy visiting Guam where there are American restaurants, movies and everyone speaks English and uses U.S. money."

Among businesses seeing increased sales when the Kitty Hawk visits is the car-rental industry. Christine Perez, Toyota Rent-A-Car and Leasing supervisor, said her office had to increase its fleet of cars to accommodate for all the sailors. She said Toyota Rent-A-Car usually rents out all its cars and enjoys an increase in sales when the Kitty Hawk visits.

"I wish [the sailors] could have stayed longer but Mother Nature — what can you do about it?"

Christine Perez

Toyota Rent-A-Car and Leasing supervisor

"Unfortunately, they had to leave early so they didn't give us dramatic sales for the specific days," she said. "I wish they could have stayed longer but Mother Nature — what can you do about it?"

One of the places sailors often drive to in those rental cars is Micronesia Mall. Typhoon Chaba stung mall merchants, said Fred Yamon the mall's assistant general manager.

"We were quite dismayed. We expected more revenue."

Jason Burnett, Holiday Inn Resort general manager, said he also was disappointed in the shortened Kitty Hawk visit.

"The hotel has an expectation that, when the Kitty Hawk comes in ... we are able to see an increase in potential business," he said.

But he also acknowledged the futility of trying to argue with the weather. "In a natural disaster like the typhoon you have to have an open mind," he said. "It would have been nice if they would have stayed on a little bit longer but you can't control nature's forces."

Burnett said he sympathized with sailors whose visit was cut short, especially those meeting family while on the island.

Adkins already was anticipating the future. "We hope to have more visits from carrier battle groups and other ships that pass our way," he said, "as they all help relieve our economy that has about 14 percent unemployment."

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Cheney breaks with Bush on gay marriage

By MARC KAUFMAN
AND MIKE ALLEN

The Washington Post

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Vice President Dick Cheney spilled out his differences with President Bush on the volatile issue of gay marriage Tuesday while making his most revealing public comments so far about the sexual orientation of his gay daughter.

Asked his position on the subject at a town hall meeting here, Cheney replied: "Lynne and I have a gay daughter, so it's an issue that our family is very familiar with. ... With respect to the question of relationships, my general view is that freedom means

freedom for everyone. People ... ought to be free to enter into any kind of relationship they want to."



Cheney

ever, that Bush has endorsed a constitutional amendment preventing the states from recognizing

such marriages.

The remarks were the first since Cheney has gone in laying out his differences with Bush's position, and they took leaders of the GOP conservative base by surprise.

The Family Research Council, a conservative group with close White House ties, called Cheney's remarks disappointing. "Unfortunately, protection of our values is made more difficult when mixed messages emanate from the White House," said Tony Perkins, the group's president. "We support President Bush's commitment to a constitutional amendment on marriage, but we are left to wonder why the vice president is allowed to depart from this position when the top of the ticket is

unified on all other issues."

The Human Rights Campaign, the leading gay rights lobbying group, issued an enthusiastic statement after Cheney's remarks. "President Bush must be feeling the heat," said the group's president, Cheryl Jacques. "Millions of Republican families, like the Cheneyes, have gay friends and family members and are offended by President Bush's efforts to put discrimination in the Constitution."

Bush officials said Cheney has such deep and longtime goodwill among conservatives that the White House is not worried about the political fallout from the exchange.

Cheney's remark was the first

time the vice president has taken note of his daughter's sexual orientation in public, officials said.

In February, Bush announced his support for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, calling marriage "the most fundamental institution of civilization" and saying courts were threatening to weaken society by changing the meaning of marriage.

Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry and running mate John Edwards both oppose the amendment. Although the candidates say they do not support same-sex marriage, they defend the right of gay couples to win the legal protections afforded married couples.

Cap flap for McSally

TUCSON, Ariz. — Lt. Col. Martha McSally, the first female head of an Air Force fighter squadron, is in trouble over her hat.

McSally, 38, wore a men's flight cap during her installation ceremony as head of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base's 354th Fighter Squadron in July. Wearing the men's cap is forbidden for women under U.S. Air Force rules.

Dress code violations are rarely punished unless they are chronic, officials said.

Grief expert Kubler-Ross dies

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, a psychiatrist who revolutionized the way much of the world looks at terminal-

ly ill patients with her book "On Death and Dying" and later as a pioneer for hospice care, has died. She was 78.

She died Tuesday of natural causes at her Scottsdale, Ariz., home, family members said.

Published in 1969, "On Death and Dying" focused on the needs of the dying and offered her theory that they go through five stages of grief — denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Kubler-Ross wrote 12 books after "On Death and Dying," including how to deal with the death of a child and an early study on the AIDS epidemic.

"She brought the taboo notion of death and dying into the public consciousness," said Stephen Connor, vice president of the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization.

From The Associated Press

Daily soda drinking linked to diabetes and weight gain

By ROB STEIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Women who drink non-diet soda or fruit punch every day gain weight quickly and face a sharply elevated risk of getting diabetes, according to a major study released Tuesday.

The study of more than 50,000 U.S. nurses found that those who drank just one soda or fruit punch a day tended to gain much more weight than those who drank less than one a month, and had more than an 80 percent increased risk of developing the most common form of diabetes. The risk pertained to drinks sweetened with either sugar or high-fructose corn syrup.

Although previous studies have linked such drinks to obesity and diabetes, the association has been the subject of intense debate as health activists have fought to ban soda vending machines from schools and the sugar industry has lobbied against dietary guidelines that discourage sugar consumption by children and adults. The new study is by far the largest and best-designed and one of the first to examine the issue in adults.

"The message is: Anyone who cares about their health or the health of their family would not consume these beverages," said Walter Willett of the Harvard School of Public Health who helped conduct the study.

"Parents who care about their children's health should not keep them at home."

Neither diet soda nor non-sweetened fruit juices appear to carry the same risks, the researchers found. Although the study involved only women, the researchers believed that the risks also hold for men.

Other experts agreed, saying

the study represented a milestone in the debate over soft drink consumption, which has skyrocketed in the past 20 years in parallel with the rising obesity epidemic.

"While it shouldn't be surprising to anyone that soda causes weight gain because it's high in calories, these findings are very significant. I think they are really a wakeup call to the consumer of soft drink beverages, to the government, to the community, to primary care providers," said Caroline Apovian of the Boston University School of Medicine, who wrote an editorial accompanying the findings in Wednesday's *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The sugar and beverage industries said the study was fundamentally flawed.

"The conclusions from this study are scientifically unsound and they are at odds with all that's known in the scientific community," said Richard Adamson, vice president for scientific and technical affairs at the American Beverage Association. "These allegations are infounded."

Among the study's many problems, Adamson said, the researchers failed to take into consideration a host of other variables that could account for the apparent risk. Women who drink a lot of soda may simply have generally unhealthy lifestyles, he said.

"If they would have adjusted for all the confounding factors they would not have found any risk at all," he said.

Any increased risk for diabetes in the study could be attributed to the weight the women gained, not their sugar intake, said Charles Baker, vice president for scientific affairs for the Sugar Association.

"It's not about sugar. It's about calorie imbalance," Baker said.

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Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, left, appears on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart on Tuesday night. Kerry joked about holding his inauguration on the show.

Kerry makes fake news debut

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — After weeks of charge and countercharge in the presidential campaign, comedian Jon Stewart tried Tuesday to get to the bottom of the debate over Democrat John Kerry's military service in Vietnam.

"I watch a lot of the cable news shows, so I understand that you were never in Vietnam," asked Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

"That's what I understand, too, but I'm trying to find out what happened," Kerry joked.

A group of Vietnam veterans has accused Kerry, in public statements and in television commercials, of exaggerating his actions during the war, where he served on a Navy swift boat and earned five medals.

As Kerry launched into one of his lengthy monologues about why President Bush avoids talking about issues like the economy, jobs and the environment, the comedian interrupted.

"I'm sorry," Stewart said. "Were you or were you not in Cambodia?"

Stewart and Kerry then leaned in to stare each other down over the comedian's desk before Stewart asked about some of the other things Kerry's opponents are saying about him.

"Are you the number one most liberal senator in the Senate?" he asked, joking about claims that Kerry is "more liberal than Karl Marx, apparently."

"No," Kerry answered.

"Are you or have you ever flip-flopped?" Stewart asked.

"I've flip-flopped, flap-flipped," Kerry said, poking fun at the GOP's label.

Stewart also sought answers to another hard-hitting question: "Is it true that every time I use ketchup, your wife gets a nickel?" The candidate's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, is heir to the Heinz food fortune.

"Would that it were," Kerry said.

When the conversation turned serious, Stewart asked Kerry how he would counter Bush's ability in debates to turn issues into a choice between his position and the opposition.

Kerry said the debates would be a challenge.

"The president has won every debate he's ever had," Kerry said. "He beat Ann Richards. He beat Al Gore. So, he's a good debater."

Many presidential candidates appeared on late-night comedy shows this year. John Edwards, now Kerry's running mate, even announced on "The Daily Show" that he was a candidate for president — which Kerry said he watched.

"I think that's why he lost," Stewart said.

"No, he won," Kerry insisted, then jokingly offered to hold their inauguration on the show.

Kerry offered an interesting observation on life as a presidential candidate.

"You'd be amazed at the number of people who want to introduce themselves to you in the men's room," he said. "It's the most bizarre part of this entire thing."

Report supports Kerry boat story

BY MATT KELLEY

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Navy task force overseeing John Kerry's swift boat squadron in Vietnam reported that his group of boats came under enemy fire during a March 13, 1969, incident that three decades later is being challenged by the Democratic presidential nominee's critics.

The March 18, 1969, weekly report from Task Force 115, which was located by The Associated Press during a search of Navy archives, is the latest document to surface that supports Kerry's description of an event for which he won a Bronze Star and a third Purple Heart.

The Task Force report twice mentions the incident five days earlier and both times calls it "an enemy initiated firefight" that included automatic weapons fire and underwater mines used against a group of five boats that included Kerry's.

Task Force 115 was commanded at the time by retired Rear Adm. Roy Hoffmann, the founder of the group Swift Boat Veterans

for Truth, which has been running ads challenging Kerry's account of the episode.

A member of the group, Larry Thurlow, said Tuesday he stood by his assertion that there was no enemy fire that day.

Thurlow, the commander of another boat who also won a Bronze Star, said task force commanders probably relied on the initial report of the incident. Thurlow says Kerry wrote that report.

The document, part of thousands of pages of records housed at the Naval Historical Center, is one of several that say Kerry and other servicemen were shot at from the banks of the Bay of Tonkin on March 13, 1969. The Associated Press located the document Tuesday during a search of available records.

Earlier this month, Swift Boat Veterans for Truth aired a television ad claiming Kerry lied about the circumstances surrounding his medals. Several members of the group who were aboard nearby boats that March 13 said in the ad and in affidavits that there was no enemy gunfire during the incident.

Bush election lawyer quits

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An election lawyer for President Bush who also has been advising a veterans group running TV ads against Democrat John Kerry resigned Wednesday from Bush's campaign.

"I can't begin to express my sadness that my legal representations have become a distraction from the critical issues at hand in this election," Benjamin Ginsberg wrote in a resignation letter to Bush released by the campaign.

"I feel I have decided that continue, so I have decided to resign as national counsel to your campaign to ensure that the giving of legal advice to decorated military veterans, which was entirely within the boundaries of the law, doesn't distract from the real issues ..."

Ginsberg's acknowledgment Tuesday evening that he was providing legal advice to the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth marked the second time in days that a person associated with the Bush-Cheney campaign had been connected to the group, which Kerry accuses of being a front for the Republican incumbent's re-election effort.

The Bush campaign and the veterans' group have said repeatedly that there is no coordination.

Lawyers on the Democratic side are also representing both the campaign or party and outside groups running ads in the presidential race. Ginsberg's dual role has drawn attention because of an ad the group ran accusing Kerry of exaggerating his Vietnam War record.

Senators protest ads

CRAWFORD, Texas — Former Democratic Sen. Max Cleland tried to deliver a letter protesting ads challenging John Kerry's Vietnam service to President Bush at his Texas ranch Wednesday, but neither a Secret Service official nor a state trooper would take it.

The former Georgia senator, a triple amputee who fought in Vietnam, was carrying a letter from nine Senate Democrats who wrote Bush that "you owe a special duty" to condemn attacks on Kerry's military service.

"The question is where is George Bush's honor, the ques-

tion is where is his shame to attack a fellow veteran who has distinguished himself in combat?" Cleland asked. "Regardless of the political combat involved, it's disgraceful."

Encountering a permanent roadblock to Bush's ranch, Cleland left without turning over the letter to anyone.

On Monday, the president said the group's anti-Kerry advertising should stop, but he refused to denounce it.

"The moment of truth came and went for President Bush to condemn these ads, and he still could not bring himself to do the right thing," Cleland said in a statement.

From wire reports

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Top cleric returns to fierce fights in Najaf

BY ABDUL HUSSEIN AL-ABEDI
The Associated Press

NAJAF, Iraq — Iraq's most powerful Shiite cleric returned from Britain on Wednesday, and his aides called for a nationwide march to Najaf to end nearly three weeks of fierce fighting between U.S. forces and Shiite militants in this holy city.

In honor of Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani's arrival, militants loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said they would suspend fighting with coalition and Iraqi forces in every region al-Sistani passes through on his way to Najaf, said al-Sadr aide Aws al-Khafaji.

Heavy fighting persisted in Najaf's Old City, the center of much of the past three weeks of clashes. U.S. warplanes fired on the neighborhood, helicopters flew overhead and heavy gunfire was heard in the streets, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, militants said Wednesday they had kidnapped the brother-in-law of Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan and demanded he end all military operations in Najaf, according to a video, Al-Jazeera television reported.

In nearby Kufa, just northeast of Najaf, unidentified gunmen killed two people and wounded five others taking part in what appeared to be a peaceful demon-



Shiite faithful in Basra, Iraq, hoist a picture of Grand Ayatollah Ali Hussein al-Sistani, 73, after he crossed into Iraq from Kuwait in a convoy Wednesday. Al-Sistani has been in London for medical treatment since Aug. 6, one day after clashes erupted in Najaf. His return could play a crucial role in stabilizing the crisis.

stration supporting al-Sadr, said Mohammed Abdul Kadhim, an employee at Kufa's Furat al-Awsat Hospital.

Videotape from Associated Press Television News showed apparently unarmed demonstrators wounded during a few minutes of heavy gunfire, but it was not clear

who was shooting. Witnesses said the gunfire appeared to come from an Iraqi National Guard post.

Witnesses said the marchers, numbering in the hundreds and carrying slogans in support of al-Sadr and pictures of both al-Sadr and al-Sistani, were headed to Kufa.

In Kufa, Iraqi police sealed off the Old City, preventing cars from entering, and Najaf's police chief, Maj. Gen. Ghalib al-Jazzari, said al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia was on its last legs.

"The Mahdi Army is finished," he said. "Its hours are numbered."

Police on Wednesday arrested several al-Sadr aides with valuables from the sacred Imam Ali Shrine, which they control, in their possession, al-Jazzari said. One of al-Sadr's top lieutenants, Sheikh Ali Smeisim, was among those arrested, police officials said on condition of anonymity.

Al-Sistani, 73, had been in London for medical treatment since Aug. 6, one day after clashes erupted in Najaf. The cleric wields enormous influence among Shiite Iraqis and his return could play a crucial role in stabilizing the crisis.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's office issued a statement welcoming al-Sistani back "on behalf of all Iraqis."

Al-Sistani crossed into southern Iraq from Kuwait about midday in a caravan of sport utility vehicles accompanied by Iraqi police and national guardsmen, according to an Associated Press reporter with the convoy. The convoy stopped in the southern city of Basra.

"Al-Sistani is heading to Najaf to stop the bloodshed," said Al-Sayid Murtadha Al-Kashmiri, an al-Sistani representative in London. "Those believers who wish to join him, let them join," he said. In Shiite areas across Iraq, appeals issued from mosque loudspeakers urging Iraqis to heed al-Sistani's call.



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Temporary restraining order granted to former GI recalled for Iraq duty

BY TIM WHITMIRE
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A federal judge ruled Wednesday that a former Army reservist from suburban Raleigh does not have to report for recall to Iraq by Friday, granting a temporary restraining order at least until a hearing next week.

Todd Parrish of Cary is locked in a legal battle with the Army over his status. He says his Army commitment expired Dec. 19, after four years of active duty and another four years in the Reserve. But the Army says Parrish never formally resigned his commission as a lieutenant, making him indefinitely eligible for involuntary recall to duty.

Last month, Parrish sued the Army, contending he was never informed "of any requirement or need to resign" his Army Reserve commission in order to terminate his status with the U.S. Army Reserve.

With a Friday deadline looming for Parrish to report for duty and discussions with the Army going nowhere, Parrish's lawyer Mark Waple said he filed a motion Monday for a temporary restraining order in Raleigh federal court.

U.S. District Judge Louise Flanagan granted the request Wednesday. She scheduled a hearing on whether to grant a preliminary

injunction against the Army for Sept. 1. In her order, Flanagan said the Army's willingness to extend Parrish's reporting date several times in recent months shows the military will not be harmed by delaying the case until a full hearing can be held.

Waple, of Fayetteville, said he and the Army have been going back and forth about Parrish's status since Parrish first received an order from the Army in May requiring him to report to Fort Sill, Okla., by June 13 for processing and deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

When Parrish tried to resign his commission, the Army told him it was too late. He then filed for an exemption from recall, which also was denied, Waple said. Parrish has appealed that ruling.

Waple said he believes Parrish is a victim of efforts by the military to keep as many people as possible in the Individual Ready Reserve so they can be called to active duty.

The Defense Department has been using numerous devices to keep enlistment up during the Iraq conflict, including a stop-loss order that prevents soldiers from leaving the military when their obligations end and multiple deployments of Guard and Reserve units.

The Army says its stop-loss program is necessary for a cohesive military with seasoned personnel.

Report faults intel unit for Iraq prison abuse

By THOMAS E. RICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's leadership of the Pentagon has been weighed by a jury of his peers and found somewhat wanting.

A report by a blue-ribbon panel he appointed to review the military establishment's role in creating and handling detainee abuse problems at Abu Ghraib prison said that the Iraq war plan he played a key role in shaping helped create the conditions that led to the scandal.

In addition, the four-member panel, which was led by one former defense secretary, James Schlesinger, and included another, Harold Brown, found that Rumsfeld's slow response when the Iraqi insurgency flared last summer worsened the situation.

But the report does not appear to threaten Rumsfeld's position as defense secretary, especially because all four panel members emphatically rejected the idea of calling for his resignation Tuesday at a Pentagon news conference to release their conclusions.

The panel's findings do, however, provide new support for two central criticisms of the Rumsfeld team's approach in Iraq last year: that the invasion plan called for too few troops, half as many as were used in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. And that the Pentagon failed to plan smartly for occupying the country after the United States defeated the Iraqi military.

Before the war, the Army chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki, said publicly he thought the invasion plan lacked sufficient manpower, and was slapped down by the Pentagon's civilian leadership for saying so.

After Baghdad fell, Rumsfeld dismissed reports of widespread looting and chaos as "untidy" signs of newfound freedom that were exaggerated by the media. And some State Department officials complained that their attempts to plan for postwar Iraq largely were disregarded by the Pentagon.

The concerns about troop strength expressed by retired generals during the war provoked



Former Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger, left, and retired Gen. Chuck Horner, members of a blue-ribbon panel examining the military leadership's role in Abu Ghraib prisoner abuses, speak to the media Tuesday at the Pentagon.

angry denunciations by Rumsfeld and Gen. Richard Myers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In April 2003, Rumsfeld, for example, commented, "People were saying that the plan was terrible, and ... there weren't enough people, and ... here were going to be, you know, tens of thousands of casualties, and it was going to

take forever."

Now a version of that criticism has been made by a panel appointed by Rumsfeld himself. One of the major factors leading to the detainee abuse, Brown said Tuesday, was "the expectation by the Defense Department leadership, along with most of the rest of the administration, that following the collapse of the Iraqi regime through coalition military operations, there would be a stable successor regime that would soon emerge in Iraq."

As Schlesinger, the panel's chairman, tartly put it, the leaders of the military establishment "did look at history books. Unfortunately, it was the wrong history." He said they tended to focus on the refugee

problems that followed the 1991 war, rather, he implied, than on other conflicts in which internal turmoil has followed an invasion.

Strikingly, given that Rumsfeld has made agility, adaptability and speed his bywords in pushing the military to transform itself, the panel also faulted the Pentagon's leadership for a flat-footed response to the outbreak of the

anti-U.S. insurgency in Iraq last summer.

In delivering its mixed verdict, the Schlesinger panel endorsed Rumsfeld's handling of the scandal once it broke. "If there's something to be commended on this whole operation, it's the way the secretary of defense has approached the investigations," said retired Air Force Gen. Charles A. Horner, the third member of the panel.

Kerry calls for secretary to step down

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry on Wednesday renewed his call for Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to resign and urged President Bush to appoint an independent investigation to provide reforms after a report faulted all levels of the military for abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.

"It's not just the little person at the bottom who ought to pay the price of responsibility," Kerry said at a Philadelphia union hall.

A report released Tuesday by an independent panel led by former Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger concluded that senior U.S. military leaders in Iraq and the Pentagon could be faulted for inattention to prisoner abuses, but it did not recommend that Rumsfeld step down.

"What is missing from all these reports is accountability from the senior civilian leaders in the Pentagon and in the White House," Kerry said.

Analysis

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Charges reduced for GI in Abu Ghraib case

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press



Spc. Megan Ambuhl

MANNHEIM, Germany — A U.S. military policewoman accused in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal had the charges against her reduced Wednesday as a set of pretrial hearings wrapped up at an American base in Germany.

The decision by military prosecutors could significantly reduce jail time for Spc. Megan Ambuhl — one of seven Army reservists charged with abuse of Iraqi prisoners — if she is found guilty.

Two counts of cruelty and maltreatment and one of conspiracy had been added after the investigation against Ambuhl was completed, a step her lawyers argued was improper and added a possible three more years of prison time.

Prosecutors had said Monday they would reopen the Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand jury investigation. But prosecutor Capt. Christopher Graveline told a pretrial hearing Wednesday the government had changed its mind.

Ambuhl, of Centerville, Va., now faces a possible 7½ years in prison if convicted on one count of conspiracy, dereliction of duty, cruelty and maltreatment and indecent acts.

The hearing made plain that she is mainly accused of failing to intervene or report abuse at the prison outside Baghdad.

"All the charges that remain before the court are complacency and failure to act or report," her military lawyer, Capt. Jennifer Crawford, said in court.

"Spc. Ambuhl is charged basi-

cally with inactivity or failure to act," she said. "A natural reaction for a lay person would be: 'I would have done something.'"

Crawford asked the court to approve a civilian prison psychologist as an expert witness, who she said could help persuade a jury how the conditions at the prison might have affected her client's judgment.

Judge Col. James Pohl rejected her request for the specific expert, but said if the government could not provide an acceptable military counterpart in the coming weeks he would reconsider the motion.

The rulings came on the last of three days of pretrial hearings held at a U.S. military base in Mannheim, where they were moved from Baghdad on a one-time basis.

On Monday and Tuesday, Pohl had ruled in the case of Spc. Charles Garner, Sgt. Javal Davis, Ambuhl and Staff Sgt. Ivan Frederick — four of the seven soldiers accused in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse case.

During the hearings, Pohl suggested he may force key military intelligence officers to testify, broadening the scope of the prison scandal beyond the 372nd Military Police Company, an Army reserve unit from Maryland to which all soldiers facing charges so far were assigned.

The judge also set the groundwork for Frederick's guilty plea to some charges, which is scheduled to take place in Baghdad on Oct. 20.

Frederick would be the second soldier to plead guilty in the case after Spc. Jeremy C. Svits, who pleaded guilty May 14, was sentenced to a year in prison.

Defense says Marine too sick, weak to kill Iraq POW

BY ROBERT JABLON
The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A Marine accused of karate-kicking a handcuffed Iraqi POW who later died believed it was his role to show prisoners "who's boss" and to soften them up for interrogation, a prosecutor said Tuesday as the court martial got under way.

But defense attorneys said during opening arguments that Sgt. Gary Pittman was too sick at the time Nagem Hatab was injured to have harmed him.

Pittman, 40, could get two years in a military prison if found guilty of assault and dereliction of duty in what is believed to be the first court-martial connected to the death of a prisoner in Iraq.

Prosecutor Maj. Leon Frances told the jury of nine Marine officers that Pittman kneed, kicked and punched Hatab and other Iraqi prisoners "just as a reprisal and just because he was angry with them."

Frances said that when an interpreter objected to Pittman's actions, Pittman replied, "These prisoners need to know who's boss."

Defense lawyer Capt. Anders Folk argued that Pittman was suffering from diarrhea and too weak to injure Hatab. He suggested Lance Cpl. William Roy, who may have caused the injuries when he allegedly grabbed the inmate by the throat.

Folk also said two Marines will testify that Hatab died of the ambush of a U.S. Army convoy that left 11 soldiers dead and led to the capture of Pfc. Jessica Lynch and five others.

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FACES 'N' PLACES

Stepping out of the shadows



AP photos
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOUI
Stars and Stripes

With album debuting at No. 1, Ashlee Simpson shows she's not mini-Jessica

BY ISAAC GUZMAN

New York Daily News

Ashlee Simpson grew up in her sister Jessica's shadow, but today, the younger sibling is a star in her own right. Ashlee's debut album, "Autobiography," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard charts, occupying a lofty slot that none of Jessica's three albums have managed to reach.

"It's insane," Ashlee said of the record's opening week sales. "It's been a long, fun process. But it's not a comparison [to Jessica] or anything like that."

The comparison, however, is something that Ashlee won't be able to avoid. After all, it was Jessica's fame that helped Ashlee snag both her Geffen Records deal and the self-titled MTV show (which aired in the time slot following big sister's "Newlyweds") that propelled the sales of "Autobiography."

In the same way that Aaron Carter (brother of Backstreet Boy Nick) and Silk the Shocker (brother of rap impresario Master P) practically inherited successful pop careers, Ashlee simply has taken advantage of a new form of celebrity nepotism.

It used to be that stars helped their children hit the big time. Now, well-organized stage parents prompt other talented members of their brood to enter the fray. Soon, we're also likely to hear about big projects from Haylie Duff (Hilary's older sister) and Jamie Lynn Spears (kin to Britney).

"You have young girls like Jessica Simpson and Britney Spears and Hilary Duff making such a great living," said Atoosa Rubenstein, editor of Seventeen magazine. "If you have another daughter or son who is equally talented, why wouldn't you want them in the family business?" These people have all developed very strong brands, and the sibling is just an extension of that brand," Rubenstein added.

At first, however, the spotlight illuminating her sister was something that Ashlee—now 20, four years younger than Jessica—could barely endure. When Jessica hit it big, Ashlee had to be content as a dancer in her sister's pop show.

In the song "Shadow," Ashlee recounts the experience. "She was beautiful, she had everything and more," she sings. "It used to be so hard being me, living in the shadow of someone else's dream."

"That song is about such an emotional feeling inside," Ashlee said. "It's about dealing with the inner demons and the voices in your head. Around 7 is when I first felt that emotional detachment about everything, and I had to overcome that."

In part, Ashlee rebelled against her sister's success by trying to be different. If Jessica was going to be the good girl who sang R&B songs, she'd be the rebel who tore up her clothes and immersed herself in the ways of rock's toughest women, such as Janis Joplin, The Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde and Blondie's Deborah Harry.

Not every sibling gets an automatic pass to the big time. Both Beyoncé Knowles' younger sister Solange and Brandy's brother Ray J failed to create identities apart from their family.

MTV's "The Ashlee Simpson Show" gave her a chance to show potential fans that she wasn't simply a Jessica clone. Viewers got to see her as she occasionally struggled to hit the right notes or grew frustrated with the search to find songs and a rock sound to fit her quirky, aggressive personality.

"If you're a sibling of a star, you have to prove that your image is not the same as theirs," said Amy Doyle, vice president of music programming for MTV.

The show quickly became one of the top five cable shows with viewers from 12 to 34. When MTV offered a free, advance Internet stream of "Autobiography," nearly 2.5 million fans logged on, eclipsing a record set by Britney Spears.

Ashlee attributes her following to changing trends in teen taste. In the late '90s, boy bands and pop were the fad; now, young people are more interested in the punk rock-inflected sound of Avril Lavigne.

"Kids are a lot smarter than people sometimes think that they are," Ashlee said. "More teenagers get you if you're just being yourself and being real. I never worried about if it was going to look or sound good on camera."

Elvis announcer dies

Al Dvorin, the concert announcer who made famous the phrase "Elvis has left the building," was killed in an auto accident in California. He was 81.

Dvorin was thrown from the car he was riding in Sunday after it swerved off a desert road near Ivanpah, the California Highway Patrol said.

The night before, Dvorin performed his signature closing line at an Elvis impersonator concert in California.

A former bandleader and talent agent in Chicago, Dvorin was with the King from his early days

as a performer and was on his last tour in 1977, the year Presley died.

The phrase that Dvorin made his signature was first uttered by other announcers early in Presley's career. It was intended to disperse audiences who lingered in hopes of an Elvis encore.

Page's talent cemented

Jimmy Page hasn't yet made it up the stairway to heaven, but he's the first to reach the new British Walk of Fame.

The former Led Zeppelin guitarist cast his hand prints in cement

Monday as the first music legend to be featured on London's answer to the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"It's a real privilege and a great honor to be the first. I'm really chuffed," said Page, 60. "A Walk of Fame is a fantastic idea, and it's high time we had one in London."

The site of the British version is taking shape outside the new Virgin Music superstore on Piccadilly Circus, London's landmark crossroads.

Page predicted it would soon become crowded with hand prints.

"If you started putting in all the people I think are deserving, you could cover the whole of London," he said.

From The Associated Press

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89 killed in simultaneous Russia plane crashes

By MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

BUCHALKI, Russia — Russian emergency workers searched heaps of twisted metal and tall grass Wednesday for clues about what caused two airliners to plunge to earth within minutes of each other, killing all 89 people aboard.

Officials said one jet sent a hijack distress signal, raising fears terrorists had struck.

Investigators studying possibility of terrorism

Flight recorders from both planes were found and taken to Moscow for investigation, ITAR-Tass reported, indicating the cause of the twin disasters soon could be identified.

Russian security authorities said that explosives specialists were still working at the scene of the crashes. They reported that ter-

rorism remained a possible cause, although there was no evidence so far that terrorists were behind the tragedies.

Federal Security Service spokesman Sergei Ignatenko said investigators still were questioning airport officials and airline and security employees at Donodedovo Airport, from which both flights left

45 minutes apart.

The airport on Moscow's far south side operates a single terminal that serves both international and domestic flights. Both flights were serviced at and left from the domestic section.

Officials there said they were investigating other possibilities such as technical failures, the use of

poor quality fuel, breaches of fueling regulations and pilot error.

Rebels fighting a protracted war for independence for Chechnya, the troubled southern Russian province, have been blamed for a series of terror strikes that have claimed hundreds of lives in Russia in recent years. But rebel representative Akhmed Zakayev told Russia's Ekho Moskvy radio from London that Chechen forces and rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov were not connected to the crashes.



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Thatcher's son arrested in coup plot investigation

By ELLIOTT SYLVESTER
The Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — South African police arrested Mark Thatcher, the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, early Wednesday on allegations he was involved in a plot to overthrow the government of oil-rich Equatorial Guinea, police said.

Thatcher, 51, was taken into custody during a raid on his home in the upscale Cape Town suburb of Constantia shortly after 7 a.m. by police armed with search warrants. He was expected to be charged with violation of the Foreign Military Assistance Act, police spokesman Sipho Ngwenya said.

"We have evidence, credible evidence, and information that he was involved in the attempted coup," said Ngwenya. "We refuse that South Africa is a springboard for coups in Africa and elsewhere."

Thatcher's court appearance was delayed when he was robbed of his shoes, jacket and cell phone in a crowded holding cell, accord-

ing to a court official who witnessed the attack. Thatcher did not appear to have been injured and police were seeking to recover the items, the witness said.

Thatcher, who has a twin sister but is the only son of Lady Thatcher and Denis Thatcher, was in his pajamas when police arrived and he received permission to take a shower before they began their search, Ngwenya said.

Investigators searched his records and computers for evidence.

They accused Thatcher of helping to finance a plot to overthrow the government of Equatorial Guinea, which authorities claimed was foiled in March.

"We believe Mr. Thatcher assisted in finance and logistics," Ngwenya said.

He left the house in a police vehicle, dressed in a dark suit and blue shirt.

Thatcher's lawyer, Peter Hodes, said Thatcher was arrested on suspicion of providing financing for a helicopter linked to the coup plot.

"He will plead not guilty," Hodes said.

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FRIDAY EVENING / AUGUST 27, 2004

MOVIES

SPORTS

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P *ESPN News	Pacific Report	The Apprentice (CC)				Alan 'Good Times' Sydney tries to track down her half-sister. (CC)		Pacific Report	Late Show (CC)		Guiding Light (CC)
7	AFN-AT 5:30 Guiding Light (CC)	General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today	Marion Jones: Greek dancing. (CC)			Baby Looney Tunes (EI) (CC)	Rocko's Modern Life (CC)	The Fairly Odd-Parents (CC)	As Told by Ginger (CC)
8	NEWS PrimeTime Thursday (CC)		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)				Headline News	ABC World News This Morning (CC)	The Early Show (CC)	
9	SPTS *4:00 MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced		SportsCenter		XXVII Summer Olympics From Athens, Greece.					*ESPN News	*ESPN News	Totally NASCAR
10	SPECT Charmé 'Valhalla of the Dolls' (Part 2) (CC)		Boston Public Chapter Forty-Eight Robert James senior is studying the rules of attraction, and not much else.				The Crocodile Hunter 'Reptiles of the Deep'	Toyota World of Wildlife	Animal Adventure: The guide to the guide, tracks a suburban monster. (CC)	Butty the Vampire Slayer 'Beneath the Surface' the guidance counselor tracks a suburban monster. (CC)	The X-Files 'Big Science' The search for the meaning of an ancient artifact leads to a lot of Mader. (CC)	
14	TMC (16) *** 'The Package' (1989, Drama) Gene Hackman, Joanna Cassidy, Tommy Lee Jones. An Army officer is involved in an international conspiracy. (CC)						*** 'The Hours' (2002, Drama) Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore, Nicole Kidman. Three women in different eras suffer emotional crisis. PG-13 (CC)		*** 'The Usual Suspects' (1995, Suspense) Stephen Rea, Kevin Spacey, Gabriel Byrne. Five small-time criminals begin an ill-fated association. 'R' (CC)		(14) *** 'The Pope of Greenwich Village' 'R' (CC)	
24	PBS Clifford the Big Red Dog (Clio's a princess. (CC) (DVS)	Dragon Tales (CC) (DVS)	The Newshour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)		Washington Week With Fortune (N) (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)		With Bill Moyers Five students at an extraordinary high school. (N) (CC)	Tucker Carlson: Unfiltered (N) (CC)	Matinee & Pizzolotto (CC)	Charlie Rose Brad Pitt. (CC)	
25	SHOW (8:45) *** 'Mississippi Burning' (1988, Drama) Gene Hackman, Willem Dafoe, Frances McDormand. FBI agents search for three missing civil rights activists. 'R' (CC)		American Justice 'Madlyn Murray O'Hair' The disappearance of a high schooler. (N) (CC)		Biography 'Andre the Giant: Larger Than Life' A profile of pro wrestler Andre the Giant. (CC)		*** 'The Italian Job' (2003, Suspense) Mark Wahlberg, Charlize Theron, Edward Norton. A thief and his crew plan to steal back their gold. PG-13 (CC)		Dead Like Me 'Ghost Story' (CC)		Penn & Teller: Bulls...! The power of magic. (CC)	Family Business 'America: A dead man's tale. (CC)
28	DISC To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Africa's Great Rivers	Africa's Great Rivers	Wild and Dangerous	To Be Announced			To Be Announced	
29	TC (1:15) Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Mister		(4:45) Private I		Baltic America (In Tagalog)	Good Morning Kris	Good Morning Kris	(4:40) Masayang Tanghal Bayan			(1:10) Sarah... Tobey Princess	(4:10) Mangarap Ka Binata
30	CNN+ Larry King Live (CC)		CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World News	World Sport		Biz Asia	The Music Room
31	GOLF *European PGA Golf International Open - First Round. From Munich, Germany.					*Golf Channel America	*Golf Central	*European PGA Golf International Open - Second Round. From Munich, Germany. (CC)				
32	TLC Clean Sweep A couple needs help with their bedroom and home offstage. (CC)		In a Fix 'Anastasia Development' A potential officer and his wife have a potentially beautiful home.		What Not to Wear 'Gina' Refining a look. (CC)		What Not to Wear 'Ani' Woman's high-fashion wardrobe. (CC)		What Not to Wear 'Twins: Veronica and Valerie' Twin fashion disasters.		What Not to Wear 'Gina' Refining a look. (CC)	
34	TOON Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Mucha Lucha	Teen Titans	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts.	Scooby-Doo All Star L.A. (CC)	I am Wessel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad	
35	ANPL The Crocodile Hunter 'River of the Dammed' Steve travels to Central America as a guest of the Belize Zoo.		The Planet's Funniest Animals	The Planet's Funniest Animals	Amazing Animal News 'Ultimate Oddities' P'ulchro oddities. (CC)		Amazing Animal News 'Ultimate Oddities' P'ulchro oddities. (CC)	Miami Animal Police Officers find an emaciated dog with a bad leg wandering around town. (CC)		Amazing Animal Videos 'Ultimate Oddities' P'ulchro oddities. (CC)		
36	COM Late Night 'An infomercial parody promoting "Late Night" DVDs. (CC)		The Daily Show With Brian Keeler. (CC)	Mad TV 'Mad Made Easy With Farrah' RuPaul attends a high-society party. (CC)	The World Stands Up Jake Johnson. (N) (CC)	Premium Blend Sean Connolly. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents Dwayne Perkins. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents Eartha Kitt. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents Clinton Jones. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents Don 'DC' Rick. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents Don 'DC' Rick. (CC)	Ralph Louis Harris 'N' (N)
40	NGC-A Disaster! Understanding and preparing for avalanches and landslides.		World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Planet Wild	The Curse of the Methuselah Tree Rings downed more than 4,600 years of history.		Panda Nursery	Face to Face With the Ice Bear		Sinking of the Belgrano Sheddling light on one of the most significant maritime disasters in recent history.		
42	SPIKE Real TV	Real TV	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		Star Trek: The Next Generation 'The Best of Both Worlds' (CC)	Star Trek: The Next Generation 'The Best of Both Worlds' (CC)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (CC)	Cagney & Lacey 'Happiness is a Warm Gun' A teenage robbery suspect shows Mary Beth. (CC)	
43	FOX Fame 'Selling Out' A song-writing contest gives the winner a chance of a lifetime.		Blind Date Polish artist meets a blind date. (CC)	Man vs. Beast (CC)		Man vs. Beast 2 Humans and animals compete in various events. (CC)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith (CC)		Cagney & Lacey 'Happiness is a Warm Gun' A teenage robbery suspect shows Mary Beth. (CC)		
44	BET 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Freestyle.		*** 'Trading Places' (1983, Comedy) Eddie Murphy, Don Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis. Two men's lives are altered by a sell made between tycoons.		The Investigators 'A Perfect Murder' Prominent citizen charged with wife's murder.		Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	BET Nightly News	Access Granted (CC)
46	COURT Body of Evidence: The Case Files	Cops Officer down and trespassing calls. (CC)	Cops Officer down and trespassing calls. (CC)		Cops Dangerous brawl, sweep of crack houses.		Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.	Forensic Files 'Plastic Fire' Car fire death probe.
48	STR-WL The Simpsons	Home Improvement	Friends (CC)	Just Shoot Me	*Wrestling		Dare You	Nash Bridges (CC)		Baywatch		
50	LIFE The Golden Girls Valentine faces is recalled. (CC)	The Golden Girls Valentine faces is recalled. (CC)	'Dying to Be Perfect: The Ellen Hart Pena Story' (1996, Drama) Crystal Bernard, Easi Morales, Casey Sierra. A world-class athlete struggles with an eating disorder. (CC) (DVS)		*Major League II' (1994, Comedy) Charles Sheen, Tom Bergeron, Corbin Bernsen. The Cleveland Indians return for another pennant race.		*** 'A Song From the Heart' (1999, Drama) Amy Grant, Kiki Carradine, D.W. Brown. A blind music teacher falls for a wealthy pianist. (CC) (DVS)		Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	The 700 Club (CC)	
51	ABC-FAM Full House D.J. Full House (Stephen's) Life League team.	Full House (Stephen's) Life League team.	7th Heaven 'A Cry for Help' A suicidal student calls Emily back at a college to save her. (CC)		Snipers: One Shot - One Kill (CC)		Decisive Battles 'Scarpe' Battle of the Marston. (CC)	Command Decisions 'Battle of Stalingrad' (CC)	Snipers: Women's Deadliest Snipers British and Russian snipers. (CC)	Snipers: Stalk and Kill (CC)		
53	HIST Roosevelt: Secrets Unveiled (CC)		Modern Marvels 'Apollo 13' A race against time to save the crew of Apollo 13. (CC)		Snipers: One Shot - One Kill (CC)		Decisive Battles 'Scarpe' Battle of the Marston. (CC)	Command Decisions 'Battle of Stalingrad' (CC)	Snipers: Women's Deadliest Snipers British and Russian snipers. (CC)	Snipers: Stalk and Kill (CC)		
57	STR-WI (5:40) Movie		(20) Movie				Movie	(4:45) Movie				
58	ADV 1 (5:30) Base Climb: El Deying Farang	*Himalayan Mountain Bikes Two mountain bikers participate in the infamous expedition route to Everest.		Game for It	*Football Fever		Shoot the Creature	India Diaries 'India Diaries Traveling with Pashil hill of salt. (CC)	India Diaries 'India Diaries Traveling with Pashil hill of salt. (CC)	*Surfer's Journal: Game for It	*Football Fever	Shoot the Creature
59	MTV True Life 'Trin in an interracial Relationship' couples.	Project Revolution Tour Special	Backstage Pass Linkin Park	Your Friend, Andrew WK 'Compilation Special'	Road Rules 'Extreme: Chile' (CC)	Road Rules 'Extreme: Chile' (CC)	Road Rules 'Extreme: Chile' (CC)	Road Rules 'Extreme: Chile' (CC)	Road Rules 'Extreme: Chile' (CC)	The Assistant	The Assistant	
60	NICK SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Rugrats Angelica makes Santa quit. (EI) (CC)	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Rugrats Angelica makes Santa quit. (EI) (CC)	The Fairly Odd-Parents (CC)	As Told by Ginger

JAPAN TV

Morning
7:30 Story (12)
Afternoon
2:05 Olympics: Women's Soccer. Synchronized Swimming, Judo and Field, Women's basketball (1)
5:00 News (1)
Evening
7:00 NHK News (1)
7:30 Japan Pro Ball: Yakult Swallows vs. Yomiuri Giants (B)
7:50 Olympics Highlights (1)
8:00 News (1)
8:30 Olympics: Men's Wrestling (1)
9:00 Movie: Access (44)
9:30 Olympics: Men's Wrestling, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Track and Field (12)
12:15 Olympics: Women's Cycling, Synchronized Swimming, Men's Soccer (1)

2:30 British Movie (1999): Greenwich Mean Time (1:55:01)
2:50 French Movie (1995): Le Hussard sur le toit (1:50:01)

JAPAN TV-B57

Morning
7:00 World News Hour
8:00 Olympics: Women's Volleyball/ Track and Field/ Women's Water Polo/ Swimming
12:00 Olympics: Women's Soccer
12:45 CNN News
1:00 Olympics: Women's Soccer
2:00 Olympics: Men's Wrestling/ Canoeing
3:00 Olympics: Men's Basketball/ Men's Rhythmic Gymnastics/ Women's Cycling
11:55 CNN News
12:00 Olympics: Men's Wrestling
1:00 Olympics: Track and Field/ Rhythmic Gymnastics/ Men's Water Polo

JAPAN TV-B511

Morning
8:25 World News Hour
9:30 Aerobics
10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra Concert
Afternoon
2:30 Grand Gourmet: Europe - Italy
3:00 U.S. Movie (1994): First Men in the Moon (1:44)
4:40 NHK: Hanyu-Chuanshen (Ray Hanyu, Pioneer of SFX Movie)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:00 U.S. Movie (1974): Chinatown (2:15)
12:00 Classical Music: Prague Music Festival 2004

WOWOW

Morning
7:30 TV Series: Friends
11:20 TV Drama: Nuremberg (2/2) (1:40)
Afternoon
3:15 Canadian Movie (1981): Scanners (1:45)
Evening
7:00 Fuji Rock Festival '04, Day 1
10:00 U.S. Movie (2000): The Cell (1:54)
12:00 TV Series: Sex and the City #2
12:35 U.S. Movie (2003): Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines (1:55)
5:00 U.S. Movie (2000): The Patriot (2:50)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size News Thursday
8:00 Pure Music
10:00 Top Choice

10:30 - Catch Special
11:00 BuzzAsia Concert in Korea
Afternoon
12:30 Classic '90's
1:00 Screen
1:30 Consequence: Southern All Stars
2:00 Pure Music
2:30 Top Choice
4:00 Top Choice Selection: New Artist
5:00 Green Day: Summer Sonic: Performing
5:30 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 M Size Guest Friday
7:00 Rocks
8:00 Screen
9:00 Summer Sonic 2004 Express #5
10:00 Screen
10:30 Friday: Asher
11:00 World Chart Express Supported by
1:00 YATV
2:00 M Size Guest Friday
3:00 After Hours

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Prepared for battle

I joined the National Guard when I was
23 years old, with a 3-year-old daughter at
home, and a college degree. For the writer
of the Aug. 6 letter "Sending women to war
wrong," to say that I "didn't know what I
was getting myself into" is infuriating.

I did not join the Army to sit behind a
desk somewhere and read about "real sol-
diers" getting killed, while I'm safe and
sound. I did not join for college money; I al-
ready had my degree. I did not join for an
extra paycheck, because, quite honestly,
when I enlisted, I didn't realize we get paid
for drill weekends in the National Guard.

I joined to be a soldier; to defend my coun-
try and kill bad guys, just like the men.

I am currently serving in Iraq, where the
battlefield is all around us. Wherever the
Army takes me I am prepared to fight. The
dangers in Iraq can be scary, and I don't
want to confess across as a hard-core 11B
wannabe, I'm just a communication trooper
in a small unit. But I would not turn tail and
run when faced with danger, because I'm
not made like that.

The American government has not
forced me into harm's way. I eagerly
sought it out. I would not change the fact
that I joined, I would not change being in
Iraq, and I would accept any draft policy in-
cluded females, as we are capable of shar-
ing the load, and should do our part to de-
fend freedom just as males have all these
years.

With all the stories of soldiers getting
killed over here, I would not be able to look
at myself in the mirror if I was not over
here, doing "my fair share to keep alive the
freedom of freedom for which this coun-
try stands." It's only fair.

Spc. Donna J. Smith
Camp Cooke, Iraq

Woman's place in Army

In response to the Aug. 6 letter "Sending
women to war wrong," the writer should
fast forward to 2004. Women are capable
of much more than cooking, cleaning and
looking good. I am an anti-feminist with the
firm belief that women do have their place,
but men have their place, too.

I love to clean, shop and play with
children, but there is much more to me than
that. I am also capable of shooting just as
well as a man, running just as fast, and fight-
ing just as hard. But is this really about
that? I am not a female in the Army, I am a
U.S. soldier.

When I got deployed to Iraq, I came
when I could have gotten out of it — and I
know countless males who found ways to
home. I knew what I was getting into when
I joined the military. My first reason to be
had nothing to do with the educational ben-
efits. It had everything to do with me being a
fighter, loving the thrill of a challenge and
wanting to serve my country. Women are
not as weak as the writer makes them out to
be. College money was just a great added
bonus. I, along with countless other women,
would give my life freely to protect my
country, or to protect the soldier next to me.
We are in 2004, where terrorists attack

Tell us what you think

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people based on their origin, not sex. Bul-
lets know no gender. Let women defend
themselves as men do, let us fight for the
country. If you don't like it, leave the United
States.

And for the record, women were not sent
here because of a severe manpower short-
age. We were sent here because our nation
is at war and we answered the call.

Laura Johnston
Al Taqaddim, Iraq

America's finest

After reading the Aug. 6 letter "Sending
women to war wrong," I was left speechless
by the author's comments. I am a five-year
veteran of the U.S. Army, currently serving
Iraq. During my time in the Army, I have
had the distinct honor and privilege of serv-
ing with some of this nation's finest fe-
males.

Females have served and died for their
country during times of conflict in every
war we have fought. From being nurses dur-
ing the Civil War, to fighter pilots in today's
battles, women have bravely put their coun-
try above themselves. They serve a vital
part in our nation's armed forces and have
done so long before this "severe manpower
shortage."

The author says that we have a national
policy that purposely places women in com-
bat. While the vast majority of jobs in to-
day's military are open to women, they are
still restricted from combat arms units. I
have served with women who, if given the
chance, would jump at being in combat
units. In an age when women have made
great advances to be considered equals
with men, we should allow a woman to
serve her country in any way she sees fit.

Before the letter writer says women have
no business being placed in harm's way, I
suggest he first face harm himself. Then I
would suggest that he stop and ask these
women who willingly volunteer to face dan-
ger.

Don't trash the dedication these fine
Americans show when they serve, and cer-

tainly don't blemish the sacrifices they
make when they give their life in combat.
Having served in one, Pfc. Karina Lutz,
who gave her life in Iraq in November 2003,
I can tell you firsthand that these women
know the risks that they take, and are very
willing and proud to face them.

Sgt. Troy Ward
Camp Cooke, Iraq

Sisters in arms

To the writer of the Aug. 6 letter "Send-
ing women to war wrong" I ask: Is it wrong
for a woman to want to defend her own free-
dom, or that of her family and friends?

I am not only a proud military spouse,
but also the mother of a young female sol-
dier and a female JROTC cadet who plans
to join her sister in the military.

The women of the U.S. armed forces are
proud to serve their country, and I should
think that anyone living in the United States
would be just as proud to have them serve,
whether it be on the battlefield or the pa-
rade field. I know I am.

And while it is a great loss to our country
to lose any of our servicemembers, the life
that we live wasn't given to it. It has been
paid for, and will continue to be paid for,
with the sweat and, yes, the blood of those
who answer the call of freedom — male and
female alike.

What bothers me most is that it took the
loss of a female soldier from the writer's
home state to bring this war "closer to
home" for him, while there are so many
Americans who live and breathe the war
every day.

Those of us living in and around the
armed forces don't see male and female,
but simply the camouflaged uniforms of the
soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Coast
Guard members who wear them. We stand
behind them all 100 percent, and we mourn
when the ultimate price is paid by one of
them, regardless of their sex.

Cindy Bell

Heidelberg, Germany

The right to fight

The writer of the Aug. 6 letter "Sending
women to war wrong," said "American
women are intelligent, yet also stated that
when they are encouraged to enlist in the
active-duty military, National Guard or Re-
serve forces they have no idea what they are
getting into. He said women are brave,
loyal, hard-working and patriotic, yet it
seems that he would like them to atom tak-
ing care of women's work, not fighting for
their personal beliefs and their country.

The writer has things wrong: It is other
countries that have a bias against women
and the belief of what a woman can or can-
not do.

And he talks of "historic norms and stan-
dards of decency": Historic norms called
for slavery. That changed. Historic norms
called for women to stay home and not war.
That, too, has changed. So has women's
right to choose to fight for their country.

Soldier on.

Jason Lagan
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Timing of troop plan influenced by politics

Los Angeles Times

With the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United States began bringing its 400,000 troops home from their bases overseas. Now about 200,000 are stationed outside the United States, excluding the more than 150,000 in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of those doing tours of several years are in Germany and South Korea.

Last week, President Bush proposed bringing more servicemembers back to U.S. bases. Redeployment is something Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has been studying since he took office in 2001. But what should be a study in strategy and tactics, a discussion on how best to provide national security, has been overwhelmed by politics. Hence the president's announcement on troop withdrawals less than three months before an election, at an appearance before the Veterans of Foreign Wars that was paid for by Bush's re-election campaign.

If the Pentagon's plans are good — and Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry denounced them in his equally political appearance before the TVF two days after Bush spoke — they'll be just as good after Inauguration Day.

Not that any of the redeployments (per-

haps eventually totaling as many as 70,000) will happen any time soon. Pentagon officials said they would not begin for more than a year and could take as long as a decade. Nor would changing the troop strength and locations be cheap.

Bush predicted savings, but they may come at the price of a steep initial investment, according to a Congressional Budget Office report in May on the Army, the service with the most permanent installations and troops outside the United States. The moving costs will be great, base infrastructure in the United States must be expanded to cope with more troops and their families, and contributions from host nations such as Germany will undoubtedly be trimmed.

Kerry criticized the proposed withdrawal of 12,000 of the more than 38,000 U.S. troops in South Korea at a time when Washington is trying to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. But 51 years after the end of the Korean War, South Korea should be able to defend itself, and a withdrawal of one-third of the U.S. troops would be unlikely to persuade Pyongyang that the United States is in retreat or unwilling to again come to Seoul's aid.

The primary reason for stationing U.S. troops in nations with strong militaries such as Japan and South Korea is to protect American interests, and only second-



arily to give pause to enemies of the host countries. Political support in host nations also plays a role; the United States shut its bases in the Philippines after years of protest.

The Cold War dictated domestic and overseas deployments; the war on terror is

necessitating new bases in nations such as Uzbekistan.

Advanced technology in the hands of a well-equipped, highly trained military may make it easier to keep troops and their families at home rather than abroad, but the decision must be based on reasons of national security, not politics.

Repositioning U.S. forces is valid as enemies shift

BY PETER R. HUESSEY

WASHINGTON

President Bush's bold proposal to redeploy some 70,000 U.S. troops from East Asia and Western Europe is a win-win situation from virtually every vantage point.

It's good for American taxpayers, it's good for military morale and it's good for our allies.

Most important, it's good for national security at a time when quick-strike mobility — rather than a outmoded Cold War set-piece strategy — is vital in fighting a war against shadowy terrorist cells lurking in many countries across the globe.

Bush has proposed moving upward of some 70,000 American soldiers from East Asia and Western Europe over the next decade. These soldiers will probably involve heavy armor divisions stationed in Germany as well as some forces from the Republic of Korea and Okinawa. The U.S. bedrock of deterrence will remain, of course, reinforced by our nuclear umbrella and our forces still stationed in those areas — especially with respect to the still-emanating threat from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

A very large number of retired U.S. military combat veterans, including seven generals and three admirals with a combined 350 years of service, have endorsed the administration's proposals. They and other experts note the war against the so-called international jihadists will require an agile and flexible military — an objective that certainly will be enhanced by the president's proposed reforms.

It's comforting to note a bipartisan consensus developing — highlighted by Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's recent remark that a thoughtful reform might very well include some movement of U.S. forces from Germany and South Korea.

While our military is currently grappling with its full and complete role in Iraq, a key element of any effective strategy in the

future will be to act prior to attacks. That likely means pre-emptive moves that preserve the stability of friendly governments while undermining the terror masters, rogue regimes and terrorism's private finances.

Even major organizations such as the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, generally reflexive against U.S. military power, now have concluded that "too many dangerous activities" are not encompassed by existing agreements, and therefore need to be countered by the possible use of military force.

Of prime importance is the growing threat of nuclear terror, which the Bush administration describes as a key "proliferation threat."

This triple threat combines outlaw states, the growth of "loose" nuclear weapons/materials, and fanatical terrorists willing to use any means necessary to express their hatred of the West.

As a result, the Bush administration concluded that some of the actors in this horror-drama, including Saddam Hussein's Iraq, could not be reformed. While Libya's decision to capitulate and remove its nuclear

and other weapons programs was welcome, it is an unlikely outcome in many of the other cases.

Flexible military forces can help the United States and its allies act quickly to intercept banned and dangerous technology, fully enforce and expand the Proliferation Security Initiative, while complementing expanded Nunn-Lugar efforts to keep nuclear material out of the hands of the jihadis.

Following these strategies will allow us to muscularly enforce clear-sighted policies in the war on terror rather than rely on what Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., has dubbed "peace through paper" and the Carnegie Endowment has called "commitments and resolutions earnestly passed."

One of America's finest soldiers, former Marine Corps Commandant Gen. P.X. Kelly, noted the new troop alignment proposed by the president demonstrates a forward-looking view, moves beyond the status quo, recognizes the realities of the post-Sept. 11 world. Kelly points out that "the threat America faces today is fundamentally different than the threats America's military was configured to face during

the Cold War" as modern military capabilities "make force deployment and the projection of power more important than the location of standing armies."

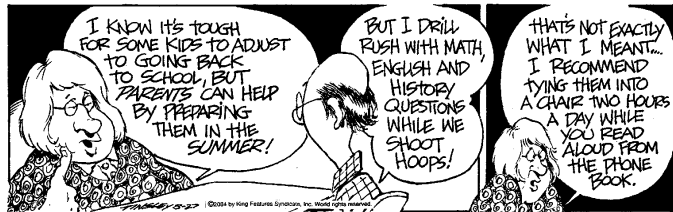
Of course, the threat from North Korea remains serious, and is growing with its nuclear program and ballistic missiles. But the current force of Americans soldiers in South Korea has never been adequate to stop a concerted attack from Pyongyang without major reinforcements and the use of overwhelming air power. To mount an effective deterrent in Korea, however, the Bush administration wisely recognizes that we do not need to the down hundreds of thousands of U.S. forces that are better utilized elsewhere.

In short, President Bush's reposition of U.S. forces is based on a new reality that indelibly inscribed itself on the national consciousness after the tragic events of Sept. 11. One can argue that it might have been undertaken a half-decade or more ago, but both the American people and their protectors should be thankful it is occurring now.

Peter R. Huessey is a senior defense associate at the National Defense University Foundation and a member of the Council on the Future of Defense, a bipartisan education and advocacy organization dedicated to building a national consensus for fighting terror around the globe.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Mistaken fund cuts

LA NEW ORLEANS — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials said they mistakenly proposed to cut funds to three estuary programs in Texas and Louisiana in an effort to plug holes in a \$3.5 million deficit.

Last week, letters were sent to the three programs saying funding would be cut by about \$56,000 for each one, which is about 11 percent of their annual budgets.

EPA's regional office that covers Texas and Louisiana proposed the cuts to make up for a deficit of \$1 million for salaries and \$2.5 million for operating costs, said Miguel Flores, director of EPA's regional water quality protection division.

The estuary programs — the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program in Louisiana and the Galveston Bay Program and Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program in Texas — are part of the National Estuary Program.

Upon review, Flores said his agency realized that NEP funding could not be touched.

Submerged-car death

VT KILLINGTON — A North Clarendon man was found dead inside his vehicle, which was submerged in a sewage pond.

State police were called by workers at the maintenance building at the Sunrise Homeowners Association in Killington.

Police said Christian Hansen, 45, an employee of the maintenance building, was reported missing and so was his vehicle. Co-workers suspected that the vehicle may have accidentally been driven into a sewage pond adjacent to the maintenance building.

Beating the system

TX BROWNSVILLE — South Texas college students looking to save money are heading to Mexico to copy their textbooks before returning them for a refund.

Jules Frapart, general manager of the Book Bee in Brownsville, said students commonly buy books from him, copy them in Matamoros, Mexico, and return them.

An employee at Papeleria La Esplanada in Matamoros said it costs 3.5 U.S. cents per page to copy a book. Pasting or binding the book costs \$2.36. That adds up to less than \$13 to copy a 300-page book.

Textbooks range in price from \$20 to more than \$100 at Frapart's store in Brownsville.

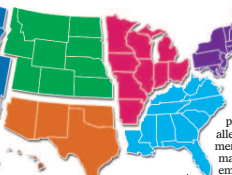
Ready for candidates

WI MADISON — Wisconsin cities are shelling out tens of thousands of dollars to keep President Bush and Democratic rival John Kerry safe as they make stop after stop in the Dairy State.

The visits force cities to absorb thousands of dollars in overtime for police, paramedics and street crews. Several cities are contemplating billing the campaigns, although federal law doesn't require campaigns to pay.

Park road closed

MT WEST GLACIER — A 6-mile stretch of the popu-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

lar Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park remained closed following a series of weekend mud and rock slides, park officials said. The road from the Loop to Logan Pass on the west side is expected to remain closed through midweek while crews attempt to remove an estimated 200 truckloads of debris.

Dangerous curves

NC SPARTA — The Blue Ridge Parkway has become the scene of an increasing number of motorcycle wrecks that rangers say probably are the result of inexperienced or inattentive drivers on the winding mountain highway.

The parkway's sometimes steep grades and changes in radius can prove tricky. More often than not, motorcycle accidents are happening at or below the parkway's 45-mph speed limit, rangers say.

Some, including a fatal accident last week, have been on straight stretches of road on dry, clear days. Ten people died on motorcycles from 1998-2000, the most recent years for which accident figures are available.

Sex ring busted

ME SACO — A Saco woman's report of a sexual assault



Guard dog

A Silky Yorkie named Pooh relaxes by an award-winning vintage 1936 Chevrolet Low Cab owned by Roger Mills, of Floresville, Texas, during the 4th annual Big Bands and Cool Cars event in Kerrville, Texas.

led police to a Skowhegan man they say was running a prostitution ring from his mobile home, using a cellular telephone and the Internet.

Police arrested James R. Taylor, 47, on a charge of promoting prostitution after allegedly taking money as payment for a liaison between a man and the woman, who was employed by Taylor's Escorts and Entertainers service.

Police say the 23-year-old woman, who also worked at a Portland gentlemen's club, reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a man who did not pay her for sexual services.

Taylor also was charged with possession of drugs including cocaine, opiates and marijuana.

Man, nephew found dead

TX DALLAS — A man and his nephew were found shot to death at a residence where hundreds of roosters were being kept.

Authorities said they had few details but believed the two were feeding the roosters when they were shot.

The bodies were found by a relative, Dallas Police Sgt. A.R. Martinez, said.

"We're just trying to work what we have and it's not too much right now," he said.

The shootings occurred in a rural area of Dallas.

Campaign fund changes

OH COLUMBUS — Gov. Bob Taft and Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell are again calling for sweeping changes to the way campaigns are funded in Ohio. Both want public disclosure of the names of all contributors to independent ad campaigns and political party operating accounts. The accounts fund salaries, building maintenance and activities meant to strengthen political parties.

Prison for beating mom

GA MARIETTA — Steven Bone became the first person to be sentenced for physically abusing an elderly person under a state law that makes such crimes a felony.

Bone, 41, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for mistreating his mother and threatening to kill her if she complained about him stealing her Social Security checks.

Geneva Bone, 71, was kept locked in a bedroom and deprived of food.

West Nile virus alert

HI HONOLULU — State health officials are asking island doctors to be on the lookout for any cases of West Nile virus.

The Department of Health said there have been no cases of the disease reported in Hawaii.

However, there has been a rise in the number of cases along the West Coast, which increases the risk of the disease finding its way to Hawaii, officials said.

The sometimes-fatal disease is spread by the bite of infected mosquitoes. People, birds and other animals can become infected, but West Nile virus isn't transmitted from person to person or from birds to people.



Laying it in

Joshua Braxton shoots a basketball at Randolph Community Center in Richmond, Va.



Heavy lifting

Jared Lacko, 4, runs with a cube of air in Bristol, Conn., during the city's heritage festival.



Paddling in the Potomac Surfers and kayakers, with the Key Bridge in the background, take on the Potomac River along the banks of Washington, D.C. It was a part of the Capital Chapter of Surfrider Foundation's 10th Annual Paddle For Clean Water, for awareness on pollution problems along Potomac, Anacostia watersheds, the Bay and Atlantic beaches.



Nice shades Cujo, a teacup Chihuahua, peers over sunglasses prior to competing in the swimsuit competition at the Doggie Splash in Abilene, Texas.



Cowabunga! Mike Royal lands a jump during the 2004 U.S. National Disabled Water Ski Championships in Fergus Falls, Minn. Royal was competing in the V-2/3 division for the visually impaired.



Sunflower feast A bumble bee prepares to land on a large sunflower in Yellow Springs, Ohio.

Banning rentals

TX GALVESTON — Some Texas Gulf Coast communities are joining a nationwide trend of banning short-term rentals of vacation homes in an effort to protect the peace and quiet of their neighborhoods.

But some critics say the trend could cost cities hundreds of thousands of dollars in hotel occupancy taxes that they use for cleaning and patrolling beaches and could drive investors out of the beach-and-bay real estate market.

In 2003, the total local hotel and motel tax, which would include homes and corporate-owned properties, totaled \$2.7 million, with a state rebate of \$1.3 million to the island.

Hurricane brings stork

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — Hurricane Isabel wasn't all bad, apparently.

Martha Jefferson Hospital is reporting record numbers of births for June and July, and Isabel can take the credit.

"The math works," said Ann Nickerson, Martha Jefferson's spokeswoman.

Isabel slammed Virginia on Sept. 18, 2003. There were 168 births in June, and 163 in July — about 20 more than usual for each month. When Isabel struck, Martha Jefferson nurses said they knew they'd be facing a storm of their own nine months later.

"Historically, when we have power outages or snowstorms, we'll see a burst of babies," nurse Kim Smith said. "With Isabel, the power was out for a long time."

New home for bears

RI ATTLEBORO — They helped put Capron Park Zoo on the map, but now it's time for the sloth-bear parents to bid adieu to their twin cubs.

Zoo officials separated the twin female cubs from their parents and started looking for a new home for the sloth-bear parents to bid adieu to their twin cubs.

The 19-month-old cubs are not only too young to have children of their own, but zoo director Shiraz Marcure says a father-daughter creation would not result in good gene pairing and a successful birth.

For unknown reasons, there is a 50 percent mortality rate for sloth bears, an endangered species.

"They'll be missed, but it's in the best interest of the species," said Marcure.

Heat, fuel fund program

AK JUNEAU — A new state loan program aims to help rural communities whose poor credit history has made them ineligible for state loans to buy winter heating oil and diesel fuel. The program pairs cash-strapped villages and regional partners, such as utilities, that will ensure the loans are repaid.

The partners will provide financial oversight and management training.

Activist loses lawsuit

NV RENO — Guy Felton, an activist accused of using foul language before being forcibly re-

moved from a 1999 council meeting, lost his federal lawsuit against former Mayor Jeff Griffin.

A judge ruled that Griffin was trying to curb Felton's disruptive behavior, not to limit his speech, when he threw him out of the council chambers.

Felton said he will appeal.

Collecting for orphans

IA GARRISON — An eastern Iowa woman is gathering shoes, socks and clothing to send to orphans in Afghanistan who will soon face the country's harsh winter. Jenni Birker's father, who's stationed with the Iowa National Guard, sent an orphanage, recently sent an e-mail pleading for more than 300 pairs of shoes.

Birker has put collection boxes in local businesses.

Parking revenue down

CO DENVER — Mayor John Hickenlooper's campaign pledge to lower parking meter rates downtown paid off politically but isn't paying off fiscally.

The city has collected about \$500,000 less in parking revenue during Hickenlooper's first year in office. His administration reduced the hourly parking rate to \$1 from \$1.50 and made parking free on Sunday.

Lake protection planning

NV LAS VEGAS — The seven states sharing the Colorado River are considering a plan to protect Lake Powell by cutting the amount of water released downstream to Lake Mead, a Nevada water official said.

Under the plan, which could be implemented if drought persists through the winter, the amount of water released from Lake Powell, on the Utah-Arizona border, would be reduced from 8.23 million acre-feet to 7.8 million acre-feet, Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager Pat Mulroy said. The nearly 9.5 percent reduction could help keep Lake Powell from shrinking further, jeopardizing power generation at Glen Canyon Dam. But it could also accelerate a drop in the water level downstream at Lake Mead, the primary water supply for Las Vegas, Mulroy said.

Town honors Disney

MO MARCELINE — The town of Marceline dedicated its post office to Walt Disney, a hometown boy who made good.

Disney was born in Marceline on Dec. 5, 1901. The post office was renamed in his honor after Rep. Sam Graves and Sen. Jim Talent sponsored a bill authorizing the change.

A souvenir "Walt Disney Post Office" postmark will soon be offered at the Marceline facility.

City to fly 1814 flag

MD BALTIMORE — Mayor Martin O'Malley ordered all city buildings to replace their modern American flags with the flag that inspired the national anthem.

The 15-star, 15-stripe design flew over Fort McHenry in 1814, when it survived a fierce bombardment from British ships. A replica is already flying at City Hall.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The moon enters Aquarius early this morning, a friendly transit prophesying a truly casual Friday. Chatting and generally making one another feel welcome must happen before any real business can take place. Don't make the mistake of thinking that small talk is unimportant. It's what makes people decide whom they want on their team.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

AUGUST 27. You're stronger than you think you are. Because of this, you can start building unstoppable momentum toward your dream. Don't stop until you've realized an important milestone — as early as Oct. 1! Romantic hopefuls could finally win you over in January. Income spikes to a high in November. Lucky love signs are Cancer or Sagittarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're in demand socially. The more-the-merrier rule will help you get everyone in. Some pals want your undivided attention and will be jealous of any newcomers, but don't go soft. Things you see often will shine in a whole new light.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

It's a day of second chances! You can undo what's done long ago with a phone call or letter. Attempts to reconcile with a family member are particularly successful. You'll win biggest when you're risking rejection.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Your practical nature is at its best, and your solutions are brilliant. Though you've got more on your list than you can possibly do in one day, take time to relax and heal your spirit, too. Your communication with friends inspires you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you want to meet active people and potential companions, engage in sports for fun. Disorganized people test your patience. Couples could make a big purchase together. Be careful with oral or written agreements.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be aware of how much other people's moods and whims affect your own. When a loved one smiles, your

troubles melt away. And when they're sour, you feel heaviness on your shoulders. This is because you care so much.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

There are many weird things that occur. You'll either laugh, be puzzled or both, but one thing is for sure: It's not a boring day. The way others react to events is telling. When you spot a true-blue friend, hold on to this one.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Your ambition wells up inside you like a geyser ready to blow. But enthusiasm alone won't be enough to propel you toward success. You need an inventive yet sensible plan to overthrow a persistent obstacle. A Scorpio helps.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

You're the master at figuring out workable ideas. While your cologne may be stuck running on pie-in-the-sky ideas, your logical approach will bring instant results. Beware of anyone who delivers a vague promise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Someone is getting weary of waiting for your decision. Tackle tough issues; action speaks louder than words. Social opportunities abound. Talk about your dream, whether or not you think anyone is interested.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Productivity is the way to your best heart; stay late. Newcomers want desperately to be a part of your plan. Impressive credentials should be double-checked. An evening at home is cozy, romantic and economical.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Second- and third-hand information could lead you dangerously wrong. Be sure you're getting your data from the source. You could be that rare exception to the rule tonight, so take a chance on the seemingly impossible.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Your expertise is worth big bucks. Consider writing a book or sharing your knowledge through teaching or public speaking. Your love life improves when you take the time to adhere to traditional courtship rituals.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



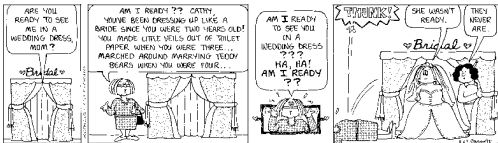
Jump Start



Zits



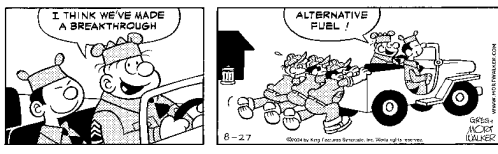
Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



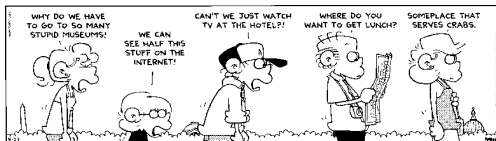
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



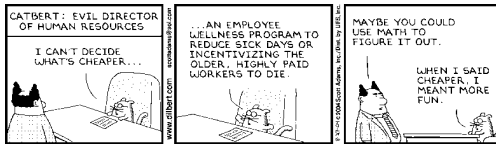
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



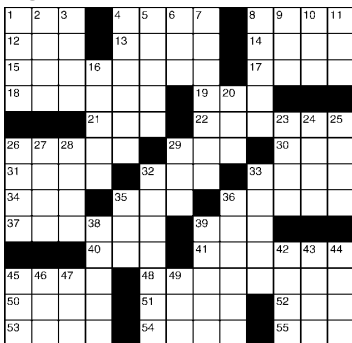
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Eccentric
- 4 React in horror
- 8 Pull an all-nighter
- 12 "A pox upon thee!"
- 13 Met melody
- 14 Roll call reply
- 15 Intrepid
- 17 Admitting customers
- 18 Gold medal winner
- 19 O'Hare's loc.
- 21 Afternoon hour
- 22 Intrepid
- 26 Author Ephron
- 29 Forefront
- 30 Biz deg.
- 31 Racetrack boundary
- 32 Blanc or Brooks
- 33 Line of thought
- 34 Anger
- 35 Clinton blew it
- 36 Objects to
- 37 Intrepid
- 39 Humongous
- 40 Carnival venue
- 41 In the thick of
- 45 Goya's duchess
- 48 Intrepid
- 50 The Red and the Black
- 51 Pub orders
- 52 Crossword clue, at times
- 53 Unuttered "alas"
- 54 Maltese money
- 55 Conclusion

Down

- 1 Dispatches, slangly
- 2 Lose gracefully?
- 3 Letter opener
- 4 Lead one
- 5 Mountain ridge
- 6 Family member
- 7 Easter-related
- 8 Hymn presenters
- 9 Agent
- 10 Exist
- 11 Chaps
- 16 Tend a stubborn squeak
- 20 Coop dweller
- 23 Portent
- 24 Footnote abbr.
- 25 Supermarket stack
- 26 Plumbing problem
- 27 Count counterpart
- 28 Stead
- 29 Irritate
- 32 Re city
- 33 government
- 33 Night watch
- 35 Emulate
- 36 18-Across
- 36 Champagne-and-OJ drink
- 38 Go haywire, as a PC
- 39 More contemptible
- 42 Put one over on
- 43 Dazzle
- 44 Take care of
- 45 Pompous one
- 46 Mainlander's memento
- 47 Apprehend
- 49 Inventor Whitney

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-27

CRYPTOQUIP

T ZB KYKZIIIS YHQV BS
XUQHTYWM NTUICUTQEG.
MRQ'M GQCTETKQIS Z

CITEN YC KRO XZMK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DOCUMENTARY
DETAILING YESTERDAY'S EXCITING BOXING
MATCH: "A ABOUT LAST NIGHT"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: 1 equals L

Hairdresser can't keep eye off TV

Dear Abby: "Mr. Eugene" has been my hairdresser for nearly 20 years. We have seen each other through divorces, deaths, recovery from alcoholism (me), and life struggles in general. Mr. Eugene used to be a great hairdresser. The problem began when he installed a little television set at his station. He keeps it on all the time and watches it almost constantly. He watches it while cutting my hair, pausing every so often to pay closer attention to what's on TV.

The quality of my haircuts has started to decline, and along with it, our client-hairdresser relationship. I'm about ready to change hairdressers because I can't find the nerve to reach over and turn the darn thing off or tell him how annoying it is, and how much better a hairdresser he is when he pays full attention to what he's doing.

Please print this so Mr. Eu-

gene will read it and give his clients the attention we deserve.

Dear Spineless: Mr. Eugene is only a hairdresser. He is not a mind reader. Since you haven't voiced an objection to his cutting and styling your hair with one eye on the boob tube, how can he be expected to know you have a problem with it? Try this: Rather than criticize him, tell him that you would prefer that he leave the TV set off while working on you, because you miss the quality time you used to spend together. You might be surprised to find that he takes it as a compliment.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I became engaged last Christmas. I have been planning my wedding with the help of my mother and my fiancé's mother. I love them both, and they are helping to pay for my big day.

My problem is that every time

I disagree with them, they call me "Bridezilla." I don't think I'm too demanding or hard to please. I just have ideas, tastes and expectations that may be different from my two mothers'.

This horrible stereotype is ruining the planning. I become devastated when they refer to me in that way, and end up giving in so I don't seem to be unreasonable.

Please help me. I am ending up with a wedding that isn't what I want. What should I do?

Not Bridezilla in L.A.

Dear Not Bridezilla: It is wrong of your mother and your fiancé's mother to call you names. However, since they are helping to fund the wedding, you can't blame them for wanting a meaningful voice in the planning. If you feel your dream wedding has been hijacked, then you should politely draw the line and finance it yourself.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby> Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GOUBS

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TOMIF

ZEFYRN

www.jumble.com

RAUBUE

Answer here: _____ AND _____

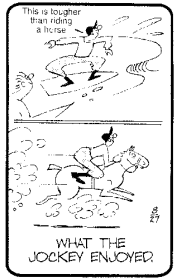
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUMPY CREELE JERSEY COUGAR

Answer: When the ring sold for a premium price, the jeweler said it was a "GEM" OF A SALE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the words asked, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Do best to deal with distant mom

Dear Annie: I am married to "Bob," a wonderful man, and we have an incredible 3-year-old son. The only problems we ever have are about family.

My mother and I never have been close. The community we live in believes she is an angel of mercy, since she donates her time and money to various charitable causes. Yet she ignores her own grandchild and treats Bob and me as if we were strangers. Annie's Mailbox

Annie's Mailbox



short, and maintain your equilibrium. Your son will take his cues from you.

Dear Annie: My dear friend "Ginny" recently was married for the second time.

Upon learning of her engagement, I offered to make the wedding dress as my gift to her. I also made a dress for the groom's mother, for which I was well-paid.

While Ginny and I were shopping for material, she bought a pattern and material for her daughter's gown, too. I neglected to mention any charge for sewing the second dress. I tried to bring up the subject in the following months, but was interrupted by others and felt this was a private matter between Ginny and me.

On the day of the wedding, I delivered the dresses and helped set up tables and chairs for the ceremony. I saw Ginny pay the florist, photographer and deejay, but not me. My husband says I should have asked for payment

when she had her checkbook out, but I thought that would be tacky.

I have receipts for some small items I needed to finish the dress, and Ginny already promised to reimburse me for those. When I mail her the receipts, should I include an invoice for her daughter's dress? Or, do I chalk it up to a lesson learned?

Southern Seamstress

Dear Seamstress: If you value the friendship, don't spring a surprise on Ginny by mailing an unexpected bill. She should have offered to pay for her daughter's dress, but you had many opportunities to speak up and didn't. Pick up the phone and say:

"Ginny, dear, when I mail the receipts for the additional beading, should I also send the invoice for your daughter's dress?" Her response will tell you if you'd be better off considering this an expensive lesson.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate



8-27

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"I bet the Swiss won some archery medals when William Tell was alive."



Dennis the Menace



"MISSUS WILSON SAYS I'M PRICELESS. I THINK THAT MEANS I'M BROKE."

© Gary Larson

The Far Side

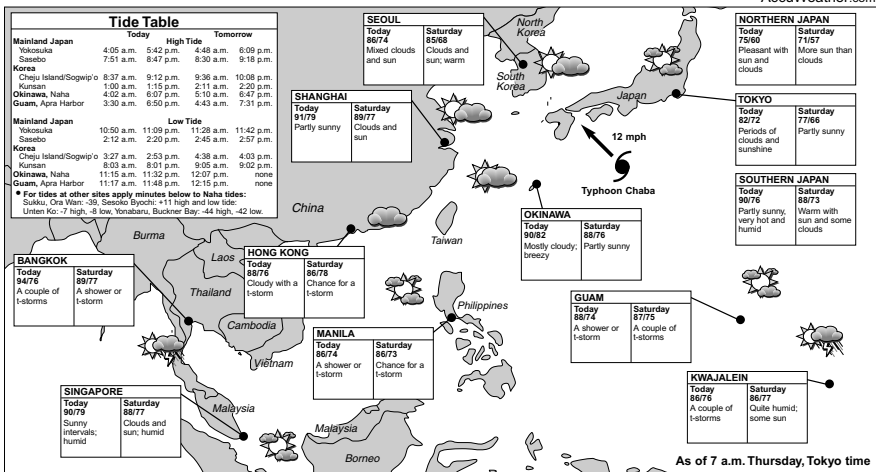


Going out for the evening, Tarzan and Jane forgot to tie up the dog.

Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 78, low 67.
Monday: Showers, high 82, low 77.

KADENA
Sunday: Morning thunderstorms, high 83, low 75.
Monday: Thunderstorms, high 86, low 79.

SEoul
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 85, low 68.
Monday: Rain, high 85, low 71.

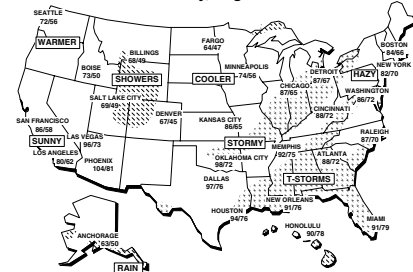
MANILA
Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 84, low 71.
Monday: Thunderstorms, high 83, low 72.

HAGATNA
Sunday: Morning thunderstorms, high 85, low 72.
Monday: Thunderstorms, high 85, low 74.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	87/61	Los Angeles	81/62
Amarillo	95/63	Little Rock	93/75
Anchorage	69/53	Louisville	89/73
Ashville	81/62	Miami	89/78
Baltimore	82/64	Milwaukee	79/69
Birmingham	86/72	Nashville	87/70
Bismarck	80/54	New York	80/64
Boston	69/50	Omaha	87/69
Brownsville	72/59	Orlando	90/74
Buffalo	85/68	Philadelphia	83/65
Burlington	82/60	Pittsburgh	85/67
Charleston, SC	88/72	Portland, OR	68/59
Charlotte	86/65	Portland, ME	68/52
Cleveland	89/71	Salt Lake City	84/56
Columbus, OH	85/69	St. Louis	90/75
Duluth	78/60	San Antonio	98/77
El Paso	94/69	San Diego	76/67
Fort Worth	80/57	San Juan	93/77
Helena	67/49	Tampa	91/74
Indianapolis	86/71	Tulsa	98/79
Jacksonville	89/71	Washington	84/67
Kansas City	91/73	Wichita	97/72

Friday, August 27



U.S. Extended Forecast

A storm system moving across Canada Friday will drag a cold front east through the Midwest and central Plains. Showers and thunderstorms will move across areas ahead of and along the front. Chilly air will be ushered in across the northern Plains with cool conditions across the northern and central Rockies. Showers and thunderstorms will drench portions of the Southeast. High pressure east of New England will allow for a partly sunny sky and warm day across New England. An offshore flow on Saturday will begin a warming trend that will last into early next week along the West Coast. The cold front across the Midwest and central Plains will become stationary.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	94/76	Iwakuni	87/74
Beijing	83/61	Kadena AB	90/82
Camp Casey	86/67	Kansan AB	82/69
Christchurch	41/26	Kewlejin	86/76
Diego Garcia	80/68	Manila	86/74
Hagatna	88/74	Misawa AB	76/58
Hanoi	92/81	Osan	85/70
Hong Kong	88/76	Perth	56/39
Honolulu	90/78	Pusan	82/71

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	93/76	Budapest	66/46
Athens	90/70	Buenos Aires	67/48
Auckland	52/39	Cairo	101/75
Baghdad	113/77	Cancun	87/74
Barbados	90/74	Cape Town	75/59
Barcelona	74/64	Geneva	67/56
Berlin	66/51	Istanbul	90/60
Bermuda	86/76	Jerusalem	90/68
Brussels	62/50	Johannesburg	59/37
		Kabul	95/58
		Kiev	75/54
		London	68/52
		Madrid	92/69
		Mexico City	77/54
		Montreal	85/68
		Mogadishu	84/71
		Moscow	75/54
		Nairobi	76/48
		New Delhi	96/81
		Oso	64/49
		Paris	67/45
		Rio de Janeiro	77/67
		Rome	79/61
		St. Petersburg	65/55
		Stockholm	64/49
		Warsaw	64/48



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SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea Standard Time. Guam is one hour ahead; Singapore, Hong Kong and Macao are two hours ahead; schedule subject to change without notice.

AFN-Pacific/Romeo/Atlantic

FRU, Aug. 27, at 1:30 a.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Women's soccer, gold-medal final; women's volleyball, gold-medal final; synchronized swimming, team competition.

FRU, Aug. 27, at 8 a.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Track and field gold-medal final, men's long jump; men's 200, men's 400 hurdles; women's 100, women's 200 semifinals and gold-medal final; men's triathlon, men's volleyball, semifinal.

FRU, Aug. 27, at 1:30 p.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Synchronized swimming, team competition; wrestling, Greco-Roman gold-medal final.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 1:30 a.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Men's basketball, semifinal; track and field gold-medal final, men's 10,000; equestrian gold-medal final, individual; canoeing gold-medal final, men's K-1; men's pole vault; men's 110 hurdles, women's long jump, women's javelin throw, women's 400 relay; diving, men's platform competition; synchronized swimming, team gold-medal final; rhythmic gymnastics competition.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 1:35 p.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Men's volleyball, semifinal; football, women's medal football, quarterfinal; wrestling, freestyle competition.

AFN Sports

FRU, Aug. 27, at 2 a.m. — Pro baseball: San Diego Padres @ St. Louis Cardinals.

FRU, Aug. 27, at 9 a.m. — Pro football-NFL pre-season: Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia.

SAT, Aug. 27, at 8 a.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Canoeing gold-medal final, men's K-1; men's 100, women's 200 semifinals and gold-medal final.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 1 a.m. — Pro baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers @ New York Yankees.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 9 a.m. — Pro football-NFL pre-season: Washington vs. St. Louis.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 10 a.m. — Pro football: NASCAR Busch Grand National Ford City 250.

SAT, Aug. 28, at 10 p.m. — 2004 Summer Olympic Games: Women's basketball gold-medal final.

Japan baseball

Central League

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Chunichi	60	43	5	.583	
Yomiuri	59	47	3	.556	1 1/2
Fuji	59	49	2	.520	6 1/2
Hanshin	51	55	1	.481	10 1/2
Yokohama	41	65	3	.388	14
Hiroshima	45	59	0	.433	15 1/2

Hanshin 8, Yokohama 0
Yakult 6, Hiroshima 0
Yomiuri 5, Chunichi 4

Pacific League

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Daiei	66	45	4	.595	
Saito	66	48	1	.578	1 1/2
Seibu	55	57	3	.496	7 1/2
Nippon Ham	55	57	2	.491	11 1/2
Kintetsu	44	70	2	.386	14
Orix	41	70	2	.369	25

Daiei 2, Orix 1
Kintetsu 6, Seibu 4
Lotte 6, Nippon Ham 3

Soccer

Major League Soccer

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
MetroStars	7	5	9	.344	
Columbus	7	5	9	.344	
San Jose	7	5	9	.344	
Chicago	5	9	8	.222	23
New England	5	9	8	.222	34

TANK MCNAMARA



WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct	GB
Kansas City	9	6	5	.357	
Colorado	8	7	5	.333	3 1/2
San Jose	8	8	2	.333	3 1/2
Seattle	9	9	2	.333	3 1/2

NFLTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

San Jose's games

D.C. United at New England, Sept. 10
Colorado at San Jose, Sept. 11

Columbus at MetroStars, Sept. 11

Kansas City at Chicago, Sept. 12

San Jose at New England, Sept. 12

D.C. United at Chicago, Sept. 13

San Jose at Kansas City, Sept. 13

Colorado at Colorado, Sept. 14

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Bills rookie Losman out with broken leg

BY JOHN WAWROW

The Associated Press

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills rookie quarterback J.P. Losman will have surgery Thursday to repair the left leg he broke in practice.

Coach Mike Mularkey said Wednesday that he anticipates Losman will be back at most points this season, but won't know when until after the operation.

Losman, the second of Buffalo's two first-round picks, broke his fibula two hours into Tuesday's practice when he fell awkwardly at the end of a run after being hit by cornerback Troy Vincent.

The initial prognosis is Losman will miss 2-3 months. The injury is being described as similar to one sustained by Atlanta quarterback Michael Vick last pre-season. Vick required 3 1/2 months of recovery before he returned.

Bills President Tom Donahoe said he is too early to say whether the team will add a quarterback or end Losman's season by placing him on the injured reserve list.

The Bills currently have three quarterbacks on their roster, headed by starter Drew Bledsoe. Former third-stringer Travis Brown is expected to serve as Bledsoe's backup to start this season. The third is undrafted free agent Greg Zolman, who competed in NFL Europe, playing last season with Rhein, where he backed up former Dallas quarterback Michael Irvin.

The Bills carried two quarterbacks — Bledsoe and Alex Van

Quarterback J.P. Losman, taken 22nd overall in April's draft, is projected to miss 2-3 months.

Pelt — for most of last season after Brown was hurt during an exhibition game.

"It's disappointing, but injuries are part of football," Donahoe said.

Selected 22nd overall, Losman was being groomed as Bledsoe's successor. The Bills thought highly enough of him that they traded three draft picks — including a first-round tender next season — in a deal with Dallas to get back into the first round.

Losman's two games, Losman went a combined 9-for-11 for 78 yards passing, and is second on the team in rushing with 80 yards on seven carries.

"The play in which Losman was hurt is being described as an accident in which the two players collided when Losman attempted to cut back into the middle."

"I was sorry that I was part of the incident," Vincent said.

DE Holmes to join Packers

From wire reports

GREEN BAY, Wis. — For three weeks, the Green Bay Packers have attempted to fill their pass-rushing needs at left end with one of their own.

Now they will attempt to do it with someone else.

The Packers reached an agreement Wednesday with veteran defensive end Kenny Holmes on a one-year, minimum-wage deal worth \$660,000. Holmes, 30, has 38 1/2 sacks over a seven-year career, including 12 1/2 in his past 17 games.

Holmes will be given an opportunity to help the Packers strengthen their pass rush.

Since camp began, the Packers have auditioned about six players at the rush-end position opposite Kabeer Gbagbi-Biamila in the third-down package. But none was an established pass defender.

Like Holmes, who signed a five-year, \$20 million contract, including a \$5 million signing bonus, with the New York Giants in 2001.

Warner to start Giants exhibition game vs. Jets

ALBANY, N.Y. — Kurt Warner will start at quarterback for the New York Giants this week, although coach Tom Coughlin declined to say whether Warner or



rookie Eli Manning will start the regular-season opener.

Coughlin announced Wednesday that Manning, the No. 1 pick in the draft, will get the same amount of snaps with the first-team offense against the New York Jets on Friday.

Coughlin said he will name a starter for the opener at Philadelphia "at the right time."

Rams CB Fisher has surgery

ST. LOUIS — Cornerback Travis Fisher had surgery Wednesday on his broken right arm but coach Mike Martz would not speculate how long the three-year pro will be sidelined.

Fisher, hurt during Monday's exhibition at Kansas City, started 15 games last year and tied for the team lead with four interceptions.

Seattle LB Brown out until Oct.

CHENY, Wash. — Seattle Seahawks linebacker Chad Brown will have surgery on his left leg Wednesday, and is expected to miss the first four games of the regular season.

Brown broke his left fibula during a passing drill Monday.

Prosecutors say Bryant DNA evidence contaminated

The Associated Press

DENVER — Two days before the start of jury selection in Kobe Bryant's rape case, prosecutors charged that crucial DNA evidence the defense had hoped to use to prove the NBA star's innocence might have been contaminated.

The judge in the case granted prosecutors' request for a hearing Thursday to question the reliability of the defense's DNA experts.

The witnesses are expected to argue that the DNA evidence shows the accuser was promiscuous.

A closed hearing will also be held Thursday to discuss the roughly 100-item questionnaire prospective jurors will fill out.

Prosecutors provided no details about the possible contamination in a court filing released Wednesday. But they expressed concerns about defense expert

Elizabeth Johnson, who testified in June that DNA evidence suggests the accuser had sex with another man after her encounter with Bryant and before her hospital examination the following day.

The claim is a core part of the defense's strategy to undermine the accuser's credibility and could bolster its claim that she accused Bryant as part of a pattern of behavior intended to gain the attention of a former boyfriend. The woman's attorneys deny the allegation.

The prosecution did not comment on why it waited until so close to the beginning of the trial to raise the DNA issue.

Prosecutor Dana Easter said contamination was found in DNA control samples intended to ensure accurate testing. That is less of a concern than contamination in samples taken from a defendant or accuser, said Scott Robinson, a defense attorney familiar

Sports briefs

with the case. But he said it could help prosecutors counter the defense expert's theories.

"If prosecutors can demonstrate there's reason to doubt the integrity of the defense lab, that will certainly help," he said.

"With DNA technology, that's really about all you can do. Juries are so confused by the science involved, you've got to attack the evidence."

Defense attorneys, who are subject to a sweeping gag order in the case, did not return a call seeking comment.

Dampier goes from Warriors to Mavs in eight-player deal

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks sent Christian Laettner, Eduardo Najera, two future

first-round draft picks and the draft rights to guards Luis Flores and Mladen Sekulacic to the Warriors for Erick Dampier, Dan Dickau, Evan Eschmeyer and the draft rights to Steve Logan.

The 6-foot-11 Dampier averaged career highs of 12.3 points and 12 rebounds in 74 games last season for the Warriors. He was fourth in the NBA in rebounding, and one of just nine players to average more than 10 points and 10 rebounds a game.

In a release, the Mavericks said Dampier signed a multiyear deal with Golden State before the trade was completed. Contract details weren't immediately available.

Blazers sign 7-footer Przybyla

PORTLAND, Ore. — Free-agent center Joel Przybyla signed with the Portland Trail Blazers on Wednesday, putting the former first-round draft pick on his third team in the past year.

The 24-year-old finished last season with the Atlanta Hawks after being acquired from the Milwaukee Bucks in a trade in February.

In 12 games with the Hawks, the 7-foot-1 Przybyla averaged four points, 8.4 rebounds and 1.4 blocked shots. His career averages are 2.1 points, four rebounds and 1.37 blocked shots per game.

Pettitte has elbow surgery

HOUSTON — Andy Pettitte had surgery Tuesday to repair a torn flexor tendon in his left elbow, and the Houston Astros said the operation was successful.

Pettitte was operated on in Birmingham, Ala., by Dr. James Andrews, Astros medical director Dr. David Lintner assisted.

Pettitte's elbow will be placed in a temporary splint. The two-time All-Star left-hander is expected to be able to throw off flat ground in early December, and doctors say he likely will be full strength by spring training.

White Sox GM Williams: Season is over for Ordonez

DETROIT — Magglio Ordonez will miss the rest of the season with a left knee injury, Chicago White Sox General Manager Kenny Williams confirmed Tuesday.

Ordonez has been sidelined since July 22 with a knee injury, and the White Sox had been saying they did not expect him back this year.

Agassi could meet Federer in U.S. Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK — Andre Agassi's path at the U.S. Open could include a quarterfinal against No. 1 Roger Federer, while defending champion Andy Roddick might have to play 2001 winner Marat Safin in the fourth round.

Serena and Venus Williams wound up on opposite sides of the field in Wednesday's draw, so they can't play each other until the final.

In addition to Agassi-Federer, the potential quarterfinals are Roddick vs. No. 7 Juan Carlos Ferrero in a rematch of the 2003 final, 2001 Open champion Lleyton Hewitt vs. No. 8 David Nalbandian, and No. 5 Tim Henman vs. No. 3 Carlos Moya.

Agassi, whose eighth major titles include the 1994 and 1999 Opens, will face U.S. Davis Cup player Robby Gienger in the first round.

No. 3-seeded Serena Williams is slated for a quarterfinal against No. 8 Jennifer Capriati. Another possible women's round-of-eight matchup is defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne vs. Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova.

Miami's controversial recruit Williams sidelined by injury

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Miami freshman linebacker Willie Williams will be sidelined at least two months after having surgery Wednesday to repair a torn ligament in his right knee.

Although the 6-foot-2, 220-pound Williams looked sharp this fall, he wasn't going to be allowed to play for at least the first month of the season while he "proves himself academically."

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Beltre's NLB-leading 40th homer powers Dodgers

L.A. opens five-game lead in West

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — Adrian Beltre's first five full seasons in the majors were marked by stretches of inconsistency and only flashes of power hitting.

This year, the Los Angeles Dodgers' third baseman has become one of baseball's most prolific sluggers.

Beltre hit a grand slam to become the first player to reach 40 home runs this season, leading the Dodgers to a 10-2 victory over the Montreal Expos on Tuesday. His previous career high for homers was 23, set last season.

"Now I believe I can do 40," said Beltre, who's hitting .334 with 94 RBIs. "I don't know if I can hit 45 yet. When I get to 45, then I know I can hit 45. I just do my best. I'm enjoying it."

Beltre has homered 10 times in his past 15 games, not bad for someone who came into the sea-

son hoping to hit just 30 homers.

"It's a number that I didn't think about the last few years," he said. "To get to 30, and to hit 40 already is a big accomplishment."

Los Angeles, which increased its NL West lead to five games over second-place San Francisco, has won six of its past nine road games and 17 of 23.

Alex Cora homered and had five RBIs, and Kazuhisa Ishii (12-6) allowed two runs in 7 1/3 innings for Los Angeles.

Los Angeles scored eight runs in the fifth, its biggest inning this season. Beltre connected off Rocky Biddle (4-7) for his fourth career slam, his second this year.

Cora also hit a three-run drive against Francis Beltran in the fifth. The second baseman had an RBI single in the second and a run-scoring grounder in the ninth, tying his career high for RBIs.

Biddle threw 104 pitches in 4 2/3 innings, allowing seven runs and six hits.

In other NL games Tuesday:



Montreal catcher Elmar Diaz makes a vain attempt to tag Los Angeles' David Ross at the plate during the Dodgers' 10-2 victory on Tuesday.

Cubs 13, Brewers 4: Moises

Alex homered twice and had a career-high six RBIs, and Derrek Lee hit a grand slam as Milwaukee lost its seventh straight.

Marlins 9, Giants 1: At Miami, Alex Gonzalez hit a three-run homer to cap a seven-run first, and Mike Lowell drove in five runs for the Marlins.

The defending champs won for the eighth time in 11 games and remained five games behind the

Cubs in the wild-card standings.

Braves 6, Rockies 5: Rafael Furcal went 4-for-4, including a two-run triple in the Braves' fourth-run sixth, and Eli Marrero drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh.

Marrero and Julio Franco each went 3-for-4 for the Braves, who used 14 hits to rally past the visiting Rockies after falling behind by four runs.

Padres 3, Mets 1: San Diego's David Wells (8-7) took a shutout into the ninth and won his fifth straight on the road. He allowed one run, four hits, struck out four and walked none in 8 1/3 innings.

Astros 4, Phillies 2: Lance Berkman and Mike Lamb hit RBI singles in the bottom of the eighth inning and the Astros used a rare relief appearance by Roy Oswalt (14-9) to defeat Philadelphia.

Reds 4, Cardinals 3: (10) At Cincinnati, Julian Tavarez (5-4) pitched while appealing a 10-day suspension and allowed the game-winning run on Darren Bragg's single.

Tavarez was penalized for applying foreign substances to balls in a game he hitched last week.

Pirates 3, Diamondbacks 1: Oliver Perez (9-6) pitched eight innings, Daryle Ward homered and the host Pirates snapped a five-game losing streak.

In Wednesday's early action: **Astros 7, Phillies 4:** Jeff Kent hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth, and host Houston swept a season series from Philadelphia for the first time.

Cubs blow lead, then win it in the ninth

BY RICK GANO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Corey Patterson hit a two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning Wednesday to give the Cubs a 4-2 win over the Milwaukee Brewers, Chicago's eighth victory in 11 games.

Patterson connected on a 2-2 pitch off Luis Vizcaino (4-4) following a controversial leadoff double by Mark Grudzielanek, who hit a fly ball down the right-field line near the wall and took third when Brady Clark's relay went past second for an error. First base umpire Mark Douglas ruled it an infield fly. The play was inconclusive. Brewers manager Ned Yost argued and was ejected.

Vizcaino, who'd given up a go-ahead homer to Moises Alou in the eighth, then retired Paul Bako and pinch-hitter Todd Walker on popups before Patterson's 18th homer.

Alou's two-out homer in the eighth gave the Cubs a 2-1 lead and had Greg Maddux headed for career win No. 302. But LaTroy Hawkins (3-4) allowed a two-out double to Chris Magruder in the ninth following Trent Durrington's leadoff single.

Maddux, 3-0 against the Brewers this season, allowed four hits in eight innings with a walk and eight strikeouts.

Milwaukee starter Doug Davis, who has one win in nine starts since the All-Star break, gave up



Chicago Cubs center fielder Corey Patterson makes a shoestring catch on a ball hit by Milwaukee's Russell Brannan on Wednesday. Patterson won the game with a two-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth.

one run and six hits in seven innings.

Bako, who plays primarily when Maddux pitches, hit his first homer since July 7, 2002, when he played for the Brewers. His fifth-inning drive to the top row of the right-field bleachers, which tied the score 1-1, was just the 14th homer of his career.

Milwaukee, playing without top run producers Geoff Jenkins (sore knee) and Lyle Overbay (sore hamstring), went ahead in the fourth when Durrington singled, moved up on an infield out and scored on Clark's single.

Bako made a heads-up defensive play in the eighth after Chad Mottler led off with an infield single. He picked up Davis' bunt in front of the plate, tagged him and then threw to second for a double play.

Milwaukee placed LHP Chris Capuano on the 15-day DL with a sore elbow and called up RHP Pedro Liriano from Triple-A Indianapolis.

Jeter's 1,000th run, two steals lift Yanks over reeling Indians

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Derek Jeter not only stayed in the lineup, he reached a milestone and helped steal a victory.

A night after he was hit on the left elbow by a pitch, Jeter homered in the first inning for his 1,000th career run. Then he stole two bases in the ninth inning and scored on Hideki Matsui's two-out single to lead the New York Yankees over Cleveland 5-4 on Tuesday night, the Indians' ninth straight loss.

"He took us to his shoulders and got us in position to win the ballgame," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "He set the tone for the night — not knowing if he was going to play, then he hits the ball over the center-field fence."

With the score 4-1 in the ninth, Jeter walked against Bob Wickman (0-2), the pitcher who hit him Monday night. Jeter stole his 19th and 20th bases.

"You're not always going to hit home runs. You have to score runs other ways," Jeter said. "I just thought I could make it. I saw some opportunities and took off."

Tom Gordon (6-3) pitched a scoreless eighth, and Mariano Rivera got three outs for his 43rd save.

New York, which rallied from a 4-1 deficit, has won two straight after losing six of seven. The Yankees remained 6 1/2 games ahead of Boston in the AL East.

Cleveland is on its longest skid since losing 10 straight in 1979. The Indians, who trailed the Twins by one game on Aug. 15, remained eight games behind the AL Central leader.

In other AL games Tuesday:

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 4: Bos-

AL Roundup

ton's Doug Mirabeli hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the sixth off Miguel Batista (9-10), and Mike Timlin pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the bottom of the inning to help the Red Sox win for the seventh time in eight games.

Manly Ramirez drove in two runs for the Red Sox, who have won seven of eight and remained one game ahead of Texas in the wild-card race.

Tim Lincecum (10-7) allowed three runs and 10 hits in five-plus innings for his fifth win in six starts, and Keith Foulke got six outs for his 23rd save.

Rangers 5, Twins 4: Texas' Michael Young hit a tying double in the bottom of the ninth off Joe Nathan (1-2) and Mark Teixeira singled home the winning run with two outs, stopping Minnesota's four-game winning streak.

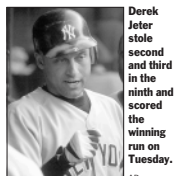
Pinch-hitter Justin Morneau had put Minnesota ahead in the top half with an RBI double off Francisco Cordero (3-0).

Athletics 6, Orioles 2: Mark Mulder (17-4) became the first 7-figure winner in the major leagues this season, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings at Oakland, Calif.

Eric Chavez and Jermaine Dye homered for the A's, who won for the eighth time in 10 games to maintain their half-game lead over Anaheim in the AL West.

Baltimore lost its eighth straight. Sidney Ponson (8-13) gave up six runs and nine hits in six innings.

Angels 7, Royals 5: Jose



Derek Jeter stole second and third in the ninth and scored to win Tuesday.

Guillen hit a two-run homer as the host Angels won their seventh straight, converting a throwing error by second baseman Dierke Relaford into the tying and go-ahead runs.

Adam Kennedy was 4-for-4, and John Lackey (11-10) allowed five runs and seven hits in five innings. Troy Percival became the only active major league pitcher with nine consecutive saves of at least 25 saves.

White Sox 9, Tigers 5: Juan Uribe homered, scored the go-ahead run and drove in three runs, helping Chicago end a five-game losing streak.

Jon Garland (9-9) won for the second time in nine starts since defeating Seattle on July 9, giving up four runs and eight hits in seven innings.

Carlos Pena hit a third-inning grand slam for host Detroit.

Devil Rays 6, Mariners 5: Tampa Bay's Tino Martinez hit the two-run homer in the top of the first to back Rob Bell (6-7), who allowed two runs — one earned — and three hits in seven innings. Martinez, who reached 20 homers for the ninth time, tied Cecil Fielder for 87th on the career list with 319.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division					
		Pct	GB		
New York	78	47.2	0		
Tampa Bay	69	46.0	20 1/2		
Toronto	53	37.1	42.1	25 1/2	

Central Division					
		Pct	GB		
Minnesota	70	56.0	0		
Chicago	69	49.6	8		
St. Louis	63	49.6	14		
Seattle	49	35.8	25		

West Division					
		Pct	GB		
Los Angeles	72	57.7	0		
Anaheim	67	57.7	1 1/2		
Seattle	46	37.1	25 1/2		

Tuesday's					
		Pct	GB		
Chicago White Sox	3, Detroit 1				
Tampa Bay	5, Cleveland 4				
Boston	7, Toronto 4				
Oakland	6, Baltimore 5				
Anaheim	7, Kansas City 5				

Wednesday's games					
		Pct	GB		
Boston at Toronto					
Chicago White Sox at Seattle					
Minnesota at Texas					
Tampa Bay at Detroit					
Kansas City at Anaheim					
Baltimore at Oakland					

Thursday's games					
		Pct	GB		
Baltimore (Cabrera 9-5) at Oakland (Zito 9-0)					
N.Y. Yankees (Lieberman 9-1) at Toronto (Buck 9-0)					
Los Angeles (Johnson 8-1) at Toronto (Arroyo 6-0)					
Chicago White Sox (Stewart 0-1) at Cleveland (Durbin 5-5)					
Minnesota (Mullholand 4-4) at Texas (Park 4-0)					
Kansas City (Barnes 2-11) at Seattle (Meyers 4-0)					

Friday's games					
		Pct	GB		
Detroit at Boston					
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland					
Los Angeles at Toronto					
Kansas City at Seattle					
Tampa Bay at Oakland					

Saturday's games					
		Pct	GB		
Baltimore (Cabrera 9-5) at Oakland (Zito 9-0)					
N.Y. Yankees (Lieberman 9-1) at Toronto (Buck 9-0)					
Los Angeles (Johnson 8-1) at Toronto (Arroyo 6-0)					
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Minnesota (Mullholand 4-4) at Texas (Park 4-0)					
Kansas City (Barnes 2-11) at Seattle (Meyers 4-0)					

Sunday's games					
		Pct	GB		
Baltimore (Cabrera 9-5) at Oakland (Zito 9-0)					
N.Y. Yankees (Lieberman 9-1) at Toronto (Buck 9-0)					
Los Angeles (Johnson 8-1) at Toronto (Arroyo 6-0)					
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Two outs when winning run scored.
 DP—Minnesota, 1; LGB—Minnesota, 6.
 Texas 10, 2B—Munoz (9), MYung (24), Bal-
 timore 12, 1B—Huntner (17), Kaskas (22),
 SF—Ford (17), Rivas (4), CS—Thurston (5).
 DP—Houston, SF—Young.

Minnesota					
		Pct	GB		
Calvin	6/2	6	2	2	1
Shiffert	1/0	0	0	0	2
Texas	5/0	0	0	0	2
Minnesota L-2					
Rivera	5/4	4	3	3	4
Mahay	1/1	1	0	0	1
Florida W-5					
Flores	3/4	3	1	0	1
Florida pitched to 2 batters in the 1st.					
WP—Rincon, Nathan, Young, T—25.8.					
A—24.86 (41.13).					

Yankees 5, Indians 4					
		Pct	GB		
Yankees	7	6	4	3	4
Indians	6	4	3	4	3
Yankees pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.					
WP—Vazquez, Bal—Vazquez, T—31.8.					
A—31.41 (38.9).					

White Sox 9, Tigers 5					
		Pct	GB		
White Sox	7	6	4	3	4
Tigers	6	4	3	4	3
White Sox pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.					
WP—Vazquez, Bal—Vazquez, T—31.8.					
A—31.41 (38.9).					

Detroit 10, Yankees 5					
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Detroit pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.					
WP—Vazquez, Bal—Vazquez, T—31.8.					
A—31.41 (38.9).					

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		Pct	GB		
Chicago	7	6	4	3	4
Yankees	6	4	3	4	3
Chicago pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.					
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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Middleweight Dirrell clinches second U.S. boxing medal

BY GREG BEACHAM

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Thailand middleweight Suriya Prasathinphimai upset Ukraine's Oleg Mashkin 28-22 on the final day of the quarterfinals in the Olympic boxing tournament Wednesday night.

American Andre Dirrell also upset Cuba's Yordani Desaigne, the world No. 3 middleweight,

12-11 to clinch a second medal for the U.S., which still will finish with its worst total since 1948.

Mashkin, the runner-up at last year's world championships, led behind early and couldn't catch up to Suriya, who has never won a major competition. The Thai fighter outscored Mashkin 7-3 in the final round.

Suriya next faces Russia's Gaydarbek Gaydarbekov, the silver medalist four years ago in Syd-

ney. Gaydarbekov beat Cameroon's Hassan Ndam Njikam 26-13.

Desaigne was just the third Cuban fighter to fail to clinch a medal. Eight teammates advanced over the four days of quarterfinals, including flyweight Yuriorkis Gamboa, a 26-18 winner over Russia's Georgy Balakshin on Wednesday.

Dirrell used a clever strategy against Desaigne, hanging back

in the early rounds before surprising the Cuban with his aggression. Dirrell scored five points in the fourth round to hang on for a one-point victory, and Desaigne refused to hug Dirrell after the bout.

Dirrell will fight Kazakhstan's Gennadiy Golovkin on Friday.

Golovkin beat Egypt's Ramadan Yasser 31-20, leaving the surprising Egyptian team with just three guaranteed medals.

Gambao will fight Germany's

Rustanhodza Rahimov, a 28-15 winner over Namibia's Paulus Ambunda. France's Jerome Thomas and Azerbaijan's Fadi Aslanov also clinched medals with victories.

Before the session, Greece protested the decision in Egyptian light heavyweight Ahmed Ismail's victory over Elias Pavlidis, who was disqualified Tuesday night with cuts on his face despite holding an 18-12 lead. The Greek protest claimed Ismail caused the injuries with several illegal hits.

Thrown: Gardner on wrong end of this reversal

THROWN, FROM BACK PAGE

He lost a toe — and nearly his life — after a February 2002 snowmobile accident left him stranded for 18 hours in the wilderness of Wyoming. He survived a motorcycle crash earlier this year, only to severely dislocate his right wrist in a pickup basketball game.

After his loss, Gardner was composed and gracious. He greeted reporters with a "Hey, how are you doing?" then went into a long, clinical explanation of how it happened. It was a far different scene than that of two days before, when U.S. silver medalist Sara McMann bawled her eyes out after losing out on the gold.

The short version of the match from Gardner: He aggressively went at Tsurtsunia, trying to take

the lead against a tiring opponent, but left himself unguarded and Tsurtsunia stepped around and took him to the mat.

"One throw and that's the whole match," Gardner said. "One mistake."

Gardner wound on top of Tsurtsunia once they struck the mat, but neither Gardner nor Fraser argued the scoring — even though Gardner, while on the mat, briefly hoped he would get credit for the reversal.

"Look, these guys are good — he was third in the world last year," Gardner said. "They watch hours of film, their coaches are back there yesterday, yelling, teaching, coaching them, telling them everything to do out there."

Early in his semifinal match, he looked to be on track in his quest to become the United

States' first two-time gold medalist in Greco-Roman wrestling and only the fourth in any kind of wrestling.

Despite being 10 years younger than the 33-year-old Gardner, Tsurtsunia appeared to be tiring out halfway through the match. He was hanging on at the end of the second 3-minute period, so tired that at one point he fled the mat rather than lock up with Gardner.

That cost him a point and tied the match 1-1.

Tsurtsunia had scored his only previous point early in the second period when he made Gardner break their clinch.

Gardner knew Tsurtsunia was wearing down, but said, "I knew the (overtime) clinch was coming up, and that's the tell-all." It turns out Gardner was right to be wary.

"No regrets," Gardner said. "I

gave it 100 percent and he got me."

Tsurtsunia was wrestling at the junior level when Gardner beat Karelin to win one of the most unanticipated gold medals in U.S.

Olympic history. Karelin is back at these games but only as a spectator, sitting in the upper reaches of the Ano Liosia Wrestling Hall and declining to talk about his loss to Gardner.

Karelin's successor on the Russian team, world champion Khasan Baroev, won his way into the final with a 4-0 victory over Barzi, then defeated Tsurtsunia 4-2 to win the gold medal.

Gardner beat Tsurtsunia 3-0 in a U.S. tournament last year, but finished only 10th in the world championships while Tsurtsunia was third. In his other major competition this year, Tsurtsunia won the Asian championships in April on his home turf in Kazakhstan.

Another American wrestling medalist also lost Wednesday: 2000 bronze medalist Garrett Lowney, of Freedom, Wis., was eliminated with losses of 3-0 to Cuba's Ernesto Pena and 4-0 to Hungary's Lajos Virag in pool matches at 211½ pounds (96kg).

Jim Gruenwald, sixth in the 2000 Games and fourth in the 2003 world championships, rallied to beat Hugo Passos of Portugal 12-7 in his first match at 152 pounds (68kg) and will meet Eusebio Diaconu of Romania later Wednesday. Gruenwald, from Milwaukee, advances to the quarterfinals if he wins.

There will be no third consecutive Olympic gold for Turkey's Hamza Yerlikaya, who lost 3-0 to 2002 world champion Ara Abrahamian of Sweden in the 185-pound (84kg) semifinals. Yerlikaya, 28, has not finished higher than sixth in the world since the Sydney Games.

Foudy's status game-time decision

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — U.S. soccer captain Julie Foudy's sprained ankle showed signs of improvement on Wednesday, though she remains a game-time decision for Thursday's gold medal game against Brazil.

"Julie's doing better," coach April Heinrichs said. "We're real excited to see her walking."

Heinrichs said Foudy no longer needed the crutches she'd been using since she was injured in the second half of Monday night's overtime victory over Germany in the semifinals.

Asked about Foudy's chances of playing, Heinrichs sighed heavily and paused before answering.

"I don't know. It's a very physical game," Heinrichs said.

"It's just hard to tell right now. She's walking. She's encouraged. She's optimistic, as she is as a person and should be as an athlete who wants to play in this game. We'll make the call tomorrow, much closer to the game."

Prosecutors seize medical files of Greek sprint stars

ATHENS, Greece — Prosecu-

Olympic briefs

tors seized the hospital records Wednesday of two Greek sprinters stars who withdrew from the Olympics after they missed a doping test and were involved in a suspicious motorcycle accident.

A source told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that prosecutors visited the KAT trauma hospital and left with the records of Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou.

Kenteris, the surprise 200-meter gold medalist in 2000, and Thanou, who took silver in the 100 meters in Sydney, could not be found at the Olympic Village for an Aug. 12 drug test. Hours later, they said they were involved in a motorcycle accident that happened because they were rushing back to the Olympic village to be tested.

They spent several days in the KAT hospital with cuts and bruises, and later withdrew from the Olympics.

Now, prosecutors are investigating the accident and whether the two national stars were deliberately trying to avoid drug tests.

Kenteris and Thanou have de-

nied any wrongdoing.

Greece protests fight stoppage

ATHENS, Greece — Greece lodged a protest over the controversial end to light heavyweight Elias Pavlidis' Olympic bout against Egypt's Ahmed Ismail, saying Ismail delivered several illegal hits that caused Pavlidis to become too injured to continue.

The Hellenic Boxing Federation lodged the protest shortly after the match ended Tuesday night in a storm of boos from a partisan crowd hoping to see Greece win its first Olympic boxing medal.

Pavlidis took an 18-12 lead at the 10th round, but referee P.K.M. Raja of Indonesia called off the fight because of serious cuts on Pavlidis' face.

The decision sparked a melee in Peristeri (Olympic Boxing Hall), with fans throwing water bottles at the ring and forcing Ismail to run for cover.

Greece's protest claims "the Egyptian athlete... did not compete fairly, as can be seen clearly in the videotape." The protest doesn't specify the hits involved, saying only that most occurred in the second round.

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First Semester Calendar



Monday, August 30
Begin First Quarter and First Semester

Monday, September 6
Labor Day - Federal Holiday

Monday, September 13
Columbus Day - Federal Holiday

Monday, November 4
End of First Quarter

2004-2005

Monday January 3
Instruction Resumes

Friday November 5
No School for Students - Teacher Work Day

Monday, November 8
Begin Second Quarter

Thursday November 11
Veterans Day - Federal Holiday

Thursday November 25
Thanksgiving - Federal Holiday



Monday January 17
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Federal Holiday

Friday November 26
Friday - Recess Day

Wednesday December 15
Accelerated Withdrawal Date (Fall Semester)

Monday December 20
Begin Winter Recess

Friday December 24
Federal Holiday (Christmas - December 25)

Thursday January 27
End of Second Quarter and First Semester

Friday December 31
Federal Holiday (New Year's Day - January 1)



Friday January 28
No School for Students - Teacher Work Day

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Jones returns to spotlight as Johnson falls out of it

BY ROB GLOSTER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Marion Jones made a quiet debut, drawing a smattering of applause while advancing to the long jump final.

Allen Johnson attracted the eyes of the entire Olympic Stadium, for all the wrong reasons.

Jones leaped 21 feet, 11 1/4 inches Wednesday, the seventh-best qualifying jump, then skipped her final attempt.

She had already left the stadium when 18-year-old Allyson Felix won a silver medal in the 200 meters — one of the events Jones won four years ago in her historic Sydney performance.

For Jones, Athens is about more than medals.

"It's a little bit about a gold, but I think to me it's a lot more about coming out here, doing my best in the midst of a hell of a year," said Jones, who is the subject of a steroid investigation, has been accused by her ex-husband of using banned drugs in Sydney and gave birth to a son 14 months ago.

"I mean, you can take that how you want it — being able to do your best in the midst of mass chaos."

There was chaos on the track when Johnson, a four-time world champion and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist, made a shocking fall from the second round of the 110-meter hurdles. He tripped over the ninth hurdle, then stumbled and fell underneath the last one — ending up face down on the track, glasses flying off his face, as competitors crossed the finish line.

Johnson said it was only the second time in his career he's fallen in a race.

"It was going great, and then I don't know. I just went down. I thought I was in control until I hit that hurdle. I got myself together, and the last one I hit and went down," Johnson said.

"I'm fairly disappointed, but it happens. I'll be watching the final. There's nothing I can do."

He was the latest of several Americans who came to Athens favored for medals but will leave empty-handed — including pole vaulter Stacy Dragila, hurdler Gill Devers, decathlete Tom Pappas and shot putter John Godina.

In the 200, Jamaica's Veronica Campbell held off Felix on the final stretch. Campbell, a student at the University of Arkansas, won in 22.05 — the fastest time in the world this year. Felix finished in 22.18 and Debbie Ferguson of the Bahamas took bronze in 22.30.

Felix was happy with her finish. "I have a lot of confidence and I'm very excited about the future," she said.



USA's Allen Johnson falls in a 110-meter hurdles qualifying heat in the Olympic Games on Wednesday. Johnson won the gold medal in 1996.

Four years ago, Jones' quest for five golds ended in the long jump. This time, she made her Athens debut in the event, with little of the celebrity worship that engulfed her in Sydney.

On her first attempt, Jones licked her lips, then paused for the start of a men's race. She took two quick deep breaths, sped down the runway — and fouled by several inches. She immediately went over to the stands to talk with coach Dan Pfaff.

Jones opened her mouth wide and rolled her tongue around her mouth before her second jump, then took four quick breaths. She propelled herself down the runway and leaped 1 1/4 inches past the automatic qualifying distance of 21-10, advancing to Friday's final.

In the 2000 Sydney Games, Jones already had won gold medals in the 100 and 200 meters when she got a bronze in the long jump. She went on to win two more medals in relays — one gold, one bronze.

But in the U.S. trials this summer, she failed to qualify in the 100 and dropped out of the 200, citing fatigue. So her only events here will be the long jump and the 400-meter relay, which begins Thursday.

Those are not the only differences from the last Olympics.

Jones was the darling of Sydney, her every move chronicled as she aimed for five golds. Even her defense of then-husband C.J. Hunter on drug charges won her praise as a supportive spouse.

Now she's under investigation by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, and has been accused by the now-divorced Hunter of using banned drugs before, during and

after the Sydney Games.

"I'm looking forward to jumping on Friday and, you know what, getting on the next plane Saturday and heading home to my little boy, who I've been away from for over three weeks," Jones said.

"So things are a lot different than four years ago."

The biggest thrill of the night for Greek fans came when countrywoman Fani Halkia won the 400-meter hurdles in 52.82 seconds, sending the sold-out Olympic Stadium into spasms of joy and flag waving. Romania's Ionea Tirlea-Manolache won silver and Tetiana Tereshchuk-Antipova of Ukraine took bronze.

Australian Jana Pittman, the world champion, finished fifth two weeks after undergoing knee surgery. Sheena Johnson was fourth and her U.S. teammate, Brenda Taylor, was seventh.

Near the start of the long jump runway, awaiting her second attempt, Jones sat impassively as Halkia pranced by on her victory lap.

In other events Wednesday, Hicham El Guerrouj qualified easily for the final of the 5,000 one night after his dramatic and emotional victory in the 1,500. Winning that preliminary heat was 10,000 champion Kenenisa Bekele, setting up a Saturday night duel in the final between two men trying to complete a rare Olympic distance double.

Only four men have won the 5,000 and 10,000 in one Olympics, as Bekele is attempting. And a 1,500-5,000 sweep would be even more unusual — El Guerrouj would be the only second man to accomplish that. Paavo Nurmi did it in 1924.

U.S. women wallop Greece, advance to basketball semis

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The place and the opponent don't really matter. This U.S. basketball team is on a roll.

Hushing a boisterous crowd with its all-around domination, the United States advanced to the semifinals Wednesday with a 102-72 victory over Greece, which had heart, the home court and little else.

Now, only two games stand between the Americans and a third straight gold medal. They'll play Russia on Friday. The semifinal winners advance to the gold medal game on Saturday.

"This is it. No regrets now," Tina Thompson said. "There's no getting it back or catching up from a loss. That would mean no gold medal and, for us, no gold medal means failure."

After playing their preliminary games in a small arena at the Helliniko complex on the coast, the teams moved to the spacious 19,250-seat Olympic Indoor Hall for the medal round. The Americans looked likely they belonged on the bigger stage.

Lisa Leslie and Yolanda Griffith dominated inside. Tina Thompson hit a succession of jumpers, Shannon Johnson had her best game of the tournament and Tanika Catchings was everywhere on both ends of the floor.

The passing was sharp, the defense quick and aggressive. By the middle of the second quarter, the United States was up by 20, and the Greek fans who made up most of the crowd of 8,100 started losing their zeal.

Even the "He-las! He-las!" chant began to wane and the

crowd stopped booing whenever the United States held the ball, slipping into a state of quiet acceptance.

These U.S. players, the Greek fans discovered, are pretty damn good.

"The crowd was great today and whenever a team feels the energy of a crowd, it plays above its head and Greece did," Diana Taurasi said. "Teams like that just don't go away. They play to the last bucket, but if you can get on them early and get the crowd out of there... that's what our first five did."

The Americans shot 57 percent in the first half and 50 percent for the game. If someone did miss a shot, it didn't matter.

Griffith, Leslie or Catchings got the rebound and scored on a putback.

Johnson and Thompson scored 20 apiece, and there was much more after that. Griffith had 14 points and 11 rebounds, Diana Taurasi had 13 points, and Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes added 12 apiece.

Leslie also had eight rebounds.

Final rebounding numbers: United States 44, Greece 22.

Catchings contributed with her hustle and outstanding defense on Evanthia Maltis, who had been averaging 20.4 points. Maltis finished with 15 points but hardly scored while the United States was taking control early.

Anastasia Kostaki led Greece with 25 points.

Unlike most of its previous games, the United States started fast and never let up. Thompson hit a turnaround jumper only 14 seconds into the game, then fed Leslie for a jump hook. Swoopes followed with a baseline jumper to make it 6-0, and the United States led the rest of the way.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Cuba dominates Australia for baseball gold

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Deploying a relentless, balanced offense, Cuba rolled over upstart Australia 6-2 Wednesday night to win the gold medal — its third in four tries since the sport gained official Olympic status.

The Cubans pounded out 13 hits, including a two-run home run by Frederich Cepeda, a two-run double by Eduardo Parent and a two-run single by Eriel Sanchez.

With the United States failing to even make the eight-team field, Cuba had been expected to vie for the gold medal with a Japanese "dream team" stocked with top pros. But Australia stunned the favored Japanese 1-0 in the semifinals, making its first ever baseball medal a silver.

Openly frustrated by its loss, Japan routed its way to a 11-2 Wednesday afternoon to win the bronze medal.

Cuba put the game away in sixth, knocking out Australian starter John Stephens — a Boston Red Sox farmhand — with four straight singles, the last a ground smash by Sanchez driving in two runs.

With two out, Parent doubled down the third-base line, driving in two more runs to make it 6-1.



Hossein Rezaeezadeh of Iran lifts 441 pounds in the snatch during the men's over-231 pound event on Wednesday at the Athens Olympics. Rezaeezadeh won the gold medal and tied his own world record.

Beach volleyball

Men's final: Brazil's Emanuel Rêgo and Ricardo Santos, the world's top-ranked team, overpowered Spain's Javier Bosma and Pablo Herrera 21-16, 21-15, finally capturing a gold medal for the nation that's dominated the sport internationally for more than a decade.

Brazil failed to win a medal in 1996 and earned a disappointing silver in Sydney when third-seeded Ricardo and Ze Marco de Melo lost to ninth-seeded Americans

Dain Blanton and Eric Fonoimoana.

Ricardo finished the match with a soft top down the line and Emanuel jumped into his partner's arms. The Spaniards slapped hands and applauded the capacity crowd, most of them yellow-clad Brazilians.

Equestrian

Individual dressage: A few early stumbles kept the United States from getting another equestrian medal.

Debbie McDonald (Halley,

Idaho, finished fourth in the individual dressage competition, done in by a couple of early mistakes on her horse Brentina.

"I'm not happy with myself," McDonald said. "I'm happy with my horse. The early problems definitely made me concerned. My brain wasn't working with my brain."

Anky van Grunsven and her horse Salinero won the gold by finishing first in the musical freestyle program. Ulla Salzgeber of Germany had been leading to that point on her horse Rusty, but wound up settling for silver.

Sailing

Men's windsurfer: A windsurfer whose first name means "wave" in Hebrew gave Israel its first Olympic gold medal ever.

Gal Fridman sailed a remarkably consistent regatta, never finishing worse than eighth in the 11-race series. He placed second in Wednesday's decisive race.

In 12 previous Olympics dating to 1952, Israel had won only one silver and three bronze medals. Fridman won a bronze in this event in 1996.

Women's windsurfer: Faustine Mermet of France won the gold, Yun Jian of China won the silver, and Alessandra Sensini of Italy got the bronze.

Synchronized swimming

Duet free routine: Australian Bar-

tosik and Anna Kozlova of the United States earned a bronze in the Olympic duet final Wednesday night, finishing behind the Russians and Japanese.

Bartosik and Kozlova totaled 96.918 points for their tribute to Greek mythology that evoked a Medusa theme. They had snakes on their sequined green, gold and white suits and headpieces.

They created serpent images by intertwining their legs and arms in the water while the music "Gorky Park" and three other dramatic compositions blared on the loudspeakers.

Triathlon

Women's final: Kate Allen, a former Australian now Austrian by marriage, passed half of the field during the final leg of the swim-cycling-run endurance test, finishing in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 43.55 seconds.

Susan Williams, the last American to qualify for the race this summer, won the bronze despite crashing early in the cycling race.

Weightlifting

Men's 105kg: Hossein Rezaeezadeh of Iran won gold and tied his own world record with a combined weight of 1,041.7 pounds.

Viktors Serebrennikov of Latvia got the silver. Valeriy Chirchakov of Bulgaria won the bronze.

American Shane Hamman broke two U.S. records and finished seventh.

Olympics scoreboard

Wednesday's scores

BASEBALL	
Bronze Medal	Japan 11, Canada 2
Gold Medal	Cuba 6, Australia 2
BASKETBALL	
Women's Quarterfinals	United States 80, Greece 72
Women's Semifinals	Russia 70, Czech Republic 49
Women's Final	Australia 94, New Zealand 60
FIELD HOCKEY	
Men's Classification	South Africa 5, Egypt 1
Men's Semifinals	South Africa 3, South Korea 3
Men's Final	Pakistan 3, India 0
Women's Classification	Netherlands 3, Germany 2
Women's Final	Australia 6, Spain 1
VOLLEYBALL	
Men's Quarterfinals	Russia 3, Serbia-Montenegro 1 (29-27, 25-22, 25-26)
Men's Semifinals	Italy 3, Argentina 1 (25-20, 25-22, 26-24)
Men's Final	Russia 3, Greece 2 (25-20, 25-22, 25-27, 25-23, 17-15)
Women's Classification	Russia 3, Poland 0 (25-22, 25-21, 25-18)
WATER POLO	
Men's Classification	Australia 10, Kazakhstan 1
Men's Semifinals	Croatia 12, Egypt 1
Men's Final	Australia 12, Germany 2
Women's Classification	Serbia-Montenegro 3, Spain 5
Beach volleyball	
Men's Bronze Medal	Stefan Kobel and Patrick Heuschler, Switzerland 3, Germany 0
Men's Gold Medal	Ricardo Alex Santos and Emanuel Rêgo, Brazil 3, 21-17, 21-15
Women's Bronze Medal	Ricardo Alex Santos and Emanuel Rêgo, Brazil 3, 21-17, 21-15
Women's Gold Medal	Ricardo Alex Santos and Emanuel Rêgo, Brazil 3, 21-17, 21-15

2. Switzerland (Franco Mancini; Bruno Risi)	11. Britain (Rob Hayles; Bradley Wiggins)
3. Britain (Rob Hayles; Bradley Wiggins)	12. Germany (Robert Barke; Guido Falck)
4. Ukraine (Volodymyr Borysh; Vitaly Yakovlev)	13. Ukraine (Volodymyr Borysh; Vitaly Yakovlev)
5. Spain (Miguel Angel Garcia; Joan Llaneras)	14. Spain (Miguel Angel Garcia; Joan Llaneras)
6. New Zealand (Craig Henderson; Hayden Routledge)	15. New Zealand (Craig Henderson; Hayden Routledge)
7. New Zealand (Craig Henderson; Hayden Routledge)	16. New Zealand (Craig Henderson; Hayden Routledge)
8. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	17. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
9. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	18. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
10. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	19. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
11. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	20. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
12. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	21. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
13. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	22. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
14. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	23. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
15. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	24. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
16. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	25. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
17. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	26. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
18. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	27. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
19. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	28. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
20. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	29. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)
21. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)	30. Australia (Wendie Garm; Franz Stocher)

1. Yan Jin, China (11.6, 6.2, 6.4, 1.1, 2.9, 1.3, 31.0)	11. Yan Jin, China (11.6, 6.2, 6.4, 1.1, 2.9, 1.3, 31.0)
2. Alessandra Sensini, Italy (7.1, 6.3, 1.1, 2.3, 6.3, 7.2, 34.0)	12. Alessandra Sensini, Italy (7.1, 6.3, 1.1, 2.3, 6.3, 7.2, 34.0)
3. U.S. finisher	13. U.S. finisher
4. Lane Beahm, Italy (6.1, 6.3, 1.1, 2.3, 6.3, 7.2, 34.0)	14. Lane Beahm, Italy (6.1, 6.3, 1.1, 2.3, 6.3, 7.2, 34.0)
5. U.S. finisher	15. U.S. finisher
6. U.S. finisher	16. U.S. finisher
7. U.S. finisher	17. U.S. finisher
8. U.S. finisher	18. U.S. finisher
9. U.S. finisher	19. U.S. finisher
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1. Russia (Anastasiya Davydova; Anastasiya Ermakova) (1.49.41.7, 1.49.41.7, 99.34)	11. Russia (Anastasiya Davydova; Anastasiya Ermakova) (1.49.41.7, 1.49.41.7, 99.34)
2. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	12. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
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4. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	14. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
5. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	15. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
6. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	16. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
7. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	17. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
8. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	18. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
9. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	19. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
10. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	20. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
11. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	21. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
12. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	22. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
13. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	23. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
14. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	24. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
15. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	25. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
16. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	26. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
17. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	27. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
18. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	28. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
19. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	29. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)
20. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)	30. Japan (Miyu Tachikawa; Miki Takeda)

U.S. cyclists shut out of medal race

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Erin Mirabella felt a joyous rush when she saw the scoreboard, learning for the first time she'd finished the points race in fourth place — her best showing in a major international race.

Then she remembered where she was in the Olympics. "I must have been the cruelest finish of all," she said. "I was happy, and then I went, 'Oh my God.' Mirabella said, 'I don't even know. I'm very happy with fourth, but it's hard to be fourth. So close. So close.'"

It was as close as the American track squad came to salvaging something out of their six-night stay at the Athens velodrome. This was the first Olympic since 1974 in which the United States competed and failed to win a track cycling medal; it had won 11 since 1984, and boycotted the 1980 Olympics.

Australia dominated track events in these Olympics, winning nine track medals — five more than any other country. The Aussies added two golds and a bronze to their collection Wednesday in the Keirin, Ryan Bayne of Australia won the gold, and in the Madison, Graeme Brown and Stuart O'Grady rode to another win.

SPORTS



Grand slam makes Dodgers 3B Beltre first in majors to hit 40 home runs this season, Page 26

Thrown for a loss



U.S. wrestler Rulon Gardner, left, reacts after losing in OT to Kazakhstan's Georgi Tsurtsumia, right, in a Greco-Roman 264 1/2-pound (120kg) semifinal on Wednesday. Gardner went on to win the bronze medal, and Tsurtsumia lost to Khasan Baroev of Russia in the gold-medal match.

Gardner settles for bronze in Greco-Roman wrestling

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Rulon Gardner was in another Olympic upset — his own.

One of the biggest stars of the 2000 Summer Games, Gardner was thrown to the mat in overtime Wednesday by Kazakhstan's Georgi Tsurtsumia and lost 4-1 in his 264 1/2-pound (120 kg) Greco-Roman semifinal. He won the bronze medal later in the day, defeating Sجاد Barzi of Iran 3-0.

After the bronze-medal match, Gardner tearfully untied his shoes and left them in the center of the ring — a traditional sign of retirement.

After leaving his shoes on the mat, he cried and blew kisses to the crowd as he walked around the arena holding an American flag.

Gardner was as surprised as anyone when Tsurtsumia somehow pulled off the winning 3-point move in their semifinal match, espe-

cially after spending much of the match wearing down the younger wrestler.

Tsurtsumia looked upward at the scoreboard, still unsure for just a moment that he'd won, then jumped jubilantly into his coach's arms. Gardner seemed confused, too, searching for an explanation as he turned toward his corner and U.S. coach Steve Fraser.

Just like that, Rulon's remarkable comeback from a spate of injuries and misfortune was finished. Kneeling on the mat as Tsurtsumia celebrated, Gardner thought "It's over, it's done," he said. "Beyond that, I wasn't even tired."

Gardner went from obscurity to celebrity after his stunning upset four years ago of the once-invincible Alexander Karelin, generally considered the greatest wrestler of all time. But Gardner has fought through a long succession of physical ailments since Sydney.

SEE THROWN ON PAGE 28



Gardner, who scored one of wrestling's biggest upsets in the Sydney Games, took off his shoes and left them in the ring to symbolize his retirement after defeating Sجاد Barzi of Iran in the bronze-medal bout Wednesday.

Medal count

Leaders after 215 medal events in the 2004 Olympics through Wednesday, Aug. 25:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	25	29	22	76
Russia	14	19	21	54
China	24	16	12	52
Australia	16	11	15	42
Japan	15	9	10	34
Germany	9	11	13	33
France	10	7	9	26
Britain	7	8	9	24
Italy	8	6	8	22
South Korea	6	10	5	21



Home court does Greece little good as U.S. women roll into semifinals

Page 30



Jones sheds low profile in Athens debut

Page 30

More inside:

■ Middleweight Dirrell clinches second U.S. boxing medal, Page 28

■ Cuba defeats upstart Australia for baseball gold, Page 31

Bills rookie QB Losman sidelined with broken leg Page 24



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